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SOCCER

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WE'VE DONE IT

Perth Inch Historic First Minor Premiership

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory, a club only four years young, capped off an outstanding home and away season by securing the minor-premiership at Perth Oval last Sunday after defeating Sydney side Northern Spirit.

It was nothing more than they deserved after setting the national soccer league competition alight since they arrived on the scene in 1996.

"It (minor-premiership) was the result of good team work over the four years," said Glory coach Bernd Stange. "I have never forgotten what Gary Marocchi achieved before me, where he changed the team from amateur to semi-professional soccer," said Stange on his predecessor.

"But now, we are very close to becoming a fully-professional soccer club."

A breathtaking header by Perth defender Jamie Harnwell from an equally stunning right-side centre from dynamic wing-back Rob Trajkovski proved to be the decisive moment in what was a tight and tough yet even contest.

Spirit coach Graham Arnold said it was the first time he had been able to field his strongest line-up since the first round following a 'horrendous run of injuries'.

"We played very well and I thought we were unlucky not to come away with at least a point," said Arnold. Glory now take on Wollongong Wolves in the major semi-final playoffs, starting at Brandon Park on May 21 before the second leg at Subiaco Oval the following Saturday where a 30,000 plus crowd is tipped.

Full Report Page 13

MATIC MEN MARCH ON

By John Economos

Zoran Matic, coach of Adelaide City is coming to Sydney with his 'Black and White' soldiers to do battle on Sunday with Sydney Olympic at the Belmore Sports Ground in the first stage of the 'Top Six Series'.

The incredible Matic, who already has won three National Championships plus three NSL Cups with the 'Black and Whites', has stunned the Soccer fraternity over the past three months.

Following a dreadful start to their new season, Adelaide City after Round 10 was left languishing at the bottom of the League.

Then with a dramatic turn around the 'Black and Whites' have rocketted up the League ladder to finish in fourth spot.

Matic and his men have reeled off 11 wins plus a draw in their last 13 outings.

But the sturdy Matic when contacted by ABSW last night stated: "Now it's all completely ('Top Six Series') different.

"Anything can happen.

"You never know how Sydney Olympic is going to play but I think they will be tough opposition.

"I expect them (Olympic) to attack us from everywhere," Matic forecasted.

Zoran Matic: "Anything can happen."

Adelaide City will more than welcome back from suspension their resilient sweeper Angelo Costanzo.

The South Australian's classy Italian striker Claudio Pelosi is in doubt for Sunday's match with a leg injury which Matic hopes will clear up before Sunday's match.

RUFER KICKS ON PAGE 3

THE GOOD OIL ... PAGES 4-5

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STANGE WANTS FINALS SYSTEM CHANGED

By Richard Kreider

Former East German coach Bernd Stange is not an advocate of the Australian way of deciding a championship in sport with a play-off. "League Champions should be champions," said Stange.

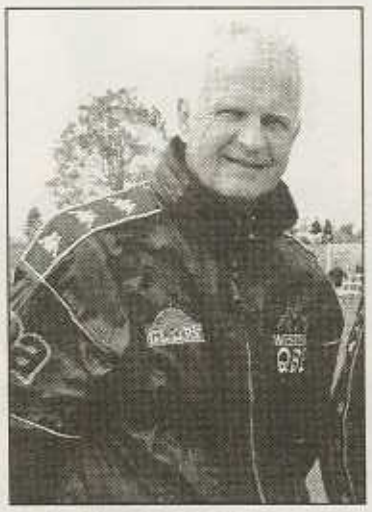
"The playoffs are like a lottery. Only Australia has this system and they (Soccer Australia) won't change it. For me personally, the next four weeks are not necessary, we should have finished the season now," said Stange who is also keen to see a break in the season to accommodate the national teams.

"I also believe we can stretch the season with some breaks and give a certain time to the Socceroos, the Olyroos and the Joeys," he said.

"This is my opinion and I have been criticised for this over the last couple of days, but Australia is a democracy and everyone can express their opinion," said Stange.

Former Socceroo striker and now coach of Northern Spirit Graham Arnold agrees with his counterpart on both issues.

"If you play 34 games and you are on top of the ladder after 34 games and you are most consistent side in the league, it should be over," said Arnold at last weekend's post-match press conference. "NSL Clubs just don't have the squad depth to last 34 games. I can tell you first hand, when I lost a lot of experienced players, I had to play six or seven 18-year-olds during the season at one time, which makes it very difficult.



Bernd Stange: Perth Glory coach.

Perhaps Soccer Australia should consider shutting down around the 20th December which is mid-season, and have three weeks off over Christmas and the New Year.

Crowds are always down around then, it's hot and it gives the players a chance to recover from any injuries while you prepare for the second-half of the season.

We've got the best climate in the world to play in, but we try to squeeze in too many games - it's crazy. Thankfully though, I don't run the show," he ended.

TALKING WITH MR ED

The business end of the season is finally upon us with Perth Glory recording a remarkable minor premiership achievement in just a short four-year existence.

Congratulations Bernd and the boys from Perth!

But the hard-luck story has to be the Newcastle (heart) Breakers. They spent most of the season in the Six and missed out in the last few weeks. Hard luck but a very young side. Well done anyway Lee and the boys. You have had a fantastic season and your time will come.

At this time of the year there is always talk about our semi-final play-off system and why we have one when the rest of the world doesn't yada...yada...yada...(see page 2)

So although I am in favour of the first-past-the-post as being the outright champion I do love the thrill of a final series. There is something about a 'grand final day atmosphere' that smells of complete excitement. Must be something to do with growing up in a culture saturated with Rugby League and AFL.

South Melbourne has been in the headlines lately due to the departure of coach Ange Postecoglou for greener pastures but here's something that is worth a mention.

After 26 years involved with the club Sunday was Ange's day and the club rewarded him with a 4-0 victory. But Souths, Ange and the club chose to share the day with a special seven-year-old named James Verlander (see page 7).

A salute to South Melbourne for adding a touch of class to an already grand occasion.

Nevio Scala - there's a name we haven't heard for a while. The ex-Parma coach, who has been unemployed for a number of years, is back in business...in Turkey! Scala has taken over at Turkish club Besiktas (see page 26 and Russo Writes page 22) who are looking for the man to help them end Galatasaray's Turkish domination.

I guess Peter Schmeichel just breeds success (see page 28). Sporting Lisbon haven't won a Portugese title in 18 years, yet in Schmeichel's first season they look like doing just that. I guess Peter just loves to play on the grandest scale - no matter what country.

And after all the recent fuss about Gianluca Vialli and his chic Chelsea, Vialli has finally resigned to the fact that an all-foreigner team just won't do the job. It's nice to see Gianluca is man enough to have an open mind. Let's hope for all the hard work they can win something soon - if not the FA Cup later this month, then something next season will be paramount.

Ed

NO FREE-TO-AIR COVERAGE OF EURO 2000

For the first time in 16 years SBS Television will not be broadcasting soccer's European Championships, Euro 2000, after failing to secure the free to air rights to the event.

All Australian rights to the 23-day tournament, to be held in Holland and Belgium next month, have been bought by a Pay TV network and SBS coverage will be restricted to new highlights on its nightly sports bulletin, Toyota World Sports.

The European Championships, held every four years, fields Europe's 16 top national teams and is ranked secondly only to the World Cup in international importance. SBS has covered all four editions of the event since 1984 and four years ago provided 110 hours of live and replayed coverage of Euro 96.

SBS has expressed its deep disappointment, given the expectations of its many soccer views and that for the first time in the event's history, the European Championships will not be available on free to air television.

"SBS is extremely disappointed that the vast majority of Australian football fans will be denied access to Euro 2000," SBS Head of Television, Peter Cavanagh, said.

"Unfortunately, this event — the most important international soccer tournament after the World Cup — is not protected by the Government's anti-siphoning provisions.

"A Pay Television operator has therefore been able to buy the free-to-air broadcast rights to Euro 2000, with no obligation to use them."

Cavanagh added, "The coverage of major sporting events on free-to-air television in Australia has been under pressure for some time now and I guess something like this had to happen sooner or later.

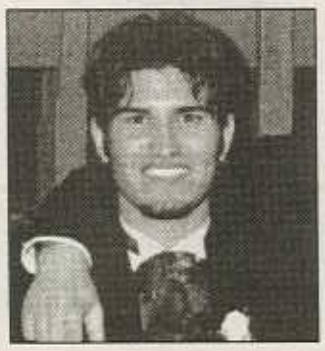
"But after 16 years of providing comprehensive coverage of the Euro Championships, it's a sad day for SBS and a sad day for Australian soccer fans."

In Memoriam

Tomorrow, Wednesday May 10th, is the first anniversary of the passing of promising youngster Peter Petrovski.

ABSW passes its condolences to the Petrovski family who wish to pass on the following message:

One year has passed since you left us and
our hearts ache as if it was yesterday.
You were so dearly loved by so many and
sadly missed by all.
Stay forever young.
May you Rest In Piece and may God
keep you safe until we meet up.



Kanga Cup Attracts International Guests

By Graham Cooke

The Kanga Cup, a minor blip on the Canberra soccer screen less than a decade ago, has now become Australia's premier international youth soccer tournament, the launch of the 2000 competition was told last week.

ACT Minister for Sport Bill Stefaniak described the growth from 30 teams in the 1993 competition to 144 this year as "amazing".

"The Kanga Cup is growing every year and has become an important event on the Canberra sporting calendar," he said.

Not least because it now brings some 5000 visitors, ploughing several million dollars into the ACT economy.

This season's competition, from July 2 to 9, will have its biggest international representation yet, with more than 50 overseas teams from the United States, China, Georgia, Nigeria and New Zealand. Underlining this international flavour was the presence of the Chinese ambassador, New Zealand High Commissioner and a representative of the US Embassy at the launch.

Sadly, it will go ahead without the presence of chief organiser Bill Van Der Vlist. Known as Kanga Bill because of his long-time association with the tournament, Van Der Vlist, and his Texan wife, Sharon, are making a permanent move to the United States.

ABSW PLAYER OF THE YEAR

David Cervinski – Wollongong

By Daniel Giorelando

ABSW is delighted to announced that the 1999/2000 ABSW player of the Year is Wollongong's David Cervinski.

After 34 games spanning some seven and a half months, Cervinski was voted by ABSW reporters as the league's most consistant and most valuable player fending off Sydney Olympic's Pablo Cardozo and Andy Harper of Newcastle.

Cervinski, in his first season at the club, has been an integral part of the Wolves defense, helping the club to their second best finish after a regular season.

Cervinski was delighted at being voted this seasons best player by our paper, acknowledging the award as highlighting the successful season of the Wolves .

"Winning the award is a good reflection of the teams' performance this season," said Cervinski.

The award will be presented to Cervinski on Sunday May 21 when the Wolves host Perth in the first leg of their Major Semi-Final.

David Cervinski

FULL REPORT SEE PAGE 13

Rufer kicks on for Kingz

By John Economos

Wynton Rufer, Player and Co-Coach of the Auckland Kingz', despite turning 38 years of age next December, has already firmly decided he will again 'lace-up' for the League's fledgling Kiwi club next season.

The amazing and exceptionally skilled triple former World Cup striker, feels strong enough as well as still enthusiastic to drive himself on for yet another season.

Wynton, who shares the coaching duties with his older brother, (also a former Kiwi international), Shane, stated to ABSW: "I still want to play and still share the coaching duties with my brother again next season.

"The co-coaching relationship between us I think has worked quite well through this season.

"We have so many common interests and do many things together.

"Looking back over this, our first season in the NSL, if I'd told you the Kingz would finish in eighth position you would have laughed.

"Now we would like to recruit some new experienced players to our squad for next season.

"But we don't have the huge budgets like some of the clubs that are in the Top Six ..

"I would like to keep most of the players we had this season for next.

Brothers in arms: Wynton and Shane Rufer, co-coaches of the Kingz.

"However we must also be careful who we sign up.

"No disrespect to New Zealand players, but the development of young players in Australia is only something that we at the moment can only dream about in New Zealand."

The former World Cup captain added: "Over the next three to five weeks I will be looking at recruiting some players for next season.

"In view of Oceania, it's important that New Zealand improves as well as other nations in our region," stressed the Kingz' co-coach.

"With our first season in the NSL we finished on a positive note but we still have a lot of work to do with young age groups in New Zealand.

"It's a great challenge."

But Rufer does not attempt to hide the fact that he still yearns and harbours a strong desire to one day return to European Soccer in some capacity.

During his playing hey days, Rufer spent almost 14 years playing professionally in Europe.

In 1981 he first ventured to England where he joined Norwich City for six months but experienced work permit problems.

He returned to New Zealand to prepare for the World Cup Finals in Spain which the Kiwis qualified for at the expense of Australia.

After Spain Rufer headed straight to Switzerland the country of birth of his Father where he first joined Zurich for four years then moved across to link up with Aarau for 18 months. Later he joined Grasshoppers for a year before flying across to Germany to sign for Werder Bremen where he remained for five and a half years.

After his stint in Germany Rufer played in Japan with JEF United before returning to Germany for a six month stint with Kaiserslautern in January of 1997.

"I eventually would like to go back to Europe," Rufer confessed.

"I will play again for the Kingz next season with the great support from my wife Lisa, a girl originally from Perth," ended Rufer.

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The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

By John Economos

BERND STANGE, Perth Glory's import coach must heartily be congratulated by everyone in Australian Soccer on winning his first NSL Minor Championship last Sunday night in only his second attempt.

The always gentleman German, despite some mid-season off-the-pitch political turbulence intelligently and coolly, remained steady on course as he piloted the 'Glory ship' through these most unexpected choppy seas.

As well, Stange also suffered through a long string of injuries to members of his squad, plus suspensions, not to mention the constant drain of key players he's had to endure whilst they served duty with our various national squads.

Capping it all, Stange over recent weeks whilst seriously steaming for the harbour to grab first line-honours, lost the vital, (if not irreplaceable), services of two of his key midfield stars in Con Boutsianis (on loan in England) and Troy Halpin (injured) for the remainder of the season.

Yet by last Sunday night the German had made it.

Without any bleating, Stange quietly lifted the NSL's Minor Championship to rest it for the very first time within the borders of Western Australia, and all in grand style.

A true champion.

Congratulations Bernd, and to the Glory squad.

●●●●

THIS SUNDAY at 5 pm, Sydney's Belmore Sports Ground will be the venue where two of Australia's very best marksmen will do battle in the first leg of the Elimination semi-final.

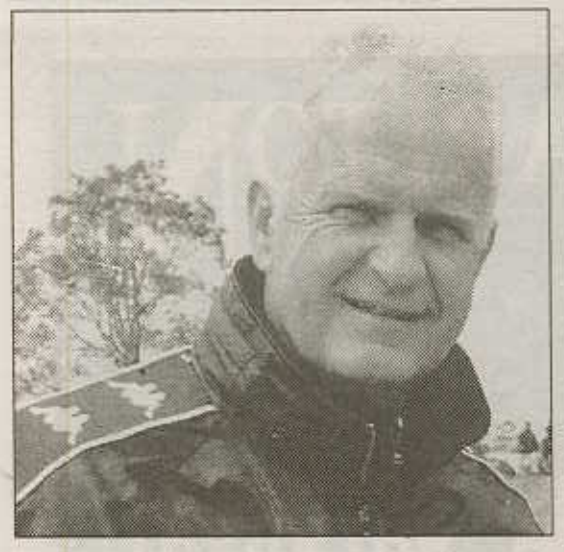
Lethal goalscorers Pablo Cardozo and Damian Mori will face each other as Sydney Olympic locks horns with visiting Adelaide City.

Last season the NSL's Top Goalscorer was Olympic's stylish striker Cardozo having nailed in 18 goals, whilst this year the 'Black and Whites' Mori finished on top with 22 goals, three ahead of Cardozo.

If the ball-service on Sunday night is forthcoming from their respective midfields, stand by for action aplenty with goals galore.

●●●●

Damian Mori: The League's Top Scorer with 22 targets.



Bernd Stange: Winner of the NSL's Minor Championship.

FRANCIS AWARITEFE, Marconi's gangling veteran striker who last Sunday night in the away match against the Canberra Cosmos knocked up his 'triple ton' of games in the NSL, will be out of contract by the end of this season.

The 36-year-old 'power-house' warhorse has as yet not signed a new contract with Marconi.

'Good Oil' understands there are two clubs, (one in NSW) that are definitely more than interested in 'Big Franny' just in case 'The Palace' doesn't offer him a new contract.

●●●●

WHO EVER STATED, 'if you're over 30 you're finished in Australian Soccer'?

Well there are three guys going around in the NSL today that will be 'lacing up' again for the next season come October.

Wynton Rufer, the Auckland Kingz' still amazingly gifted Player/Coach, and who by December will have seen no less than 38 long Summers, has no intentions of hanging up his boots.

The ace goalscorer who has now regained almost full fitness following surgery on his Achilles' tendon as well as to his damaged shoulder prior to the current season starting, is already looking forward to next season.

Francis Awaritefe: 36 years old and better than ever.

Freddie de Jong: Auckland Kingz' 'Player of the Year' — at 36.

Not only does New Zealand's former great triple World Cup striker want to continue playing in the NSL, but already is demanding his other veteran striker, Freddie de Jong, also saddle up to go round again for at least another year.

The still highly industrious de Jong, also a former New Zealand World Cup striker, has turned 36 and 'Good Oil' has already been informed that Big Freddie will be taking out the Auckland Kingz' 'Player Of The Year' trophy for this season.

Let's not forget Marconi's lanky marksman Francis Awaritefe, who recently turned 36 and still firing extremely well on all 'eight cylinders', all one can say about these three is, 'bloody marvellous'.

●●●●

BARNEY SMITH, Parramatta Power's outstanding young back-up custodian, celebrates his 22nd birthday tomorrow (Wednesday).

Barney Smith: The Power's Reserve 'keeper turns 22 tomorrow.

The son of former A.I.S. Head Coach, the extremely knowledgable Ronnie, Barney was promoted last Sunday by Power's coach David Mitchell to 'keep wickets' at the Parramatta Stadium against the Auckland Kingz.

●●●●

PARRAMATTA POWER's Youth team coached by the astute Scot Paul McFadden, took out the Minor League Championship in their very first season in the NSL.

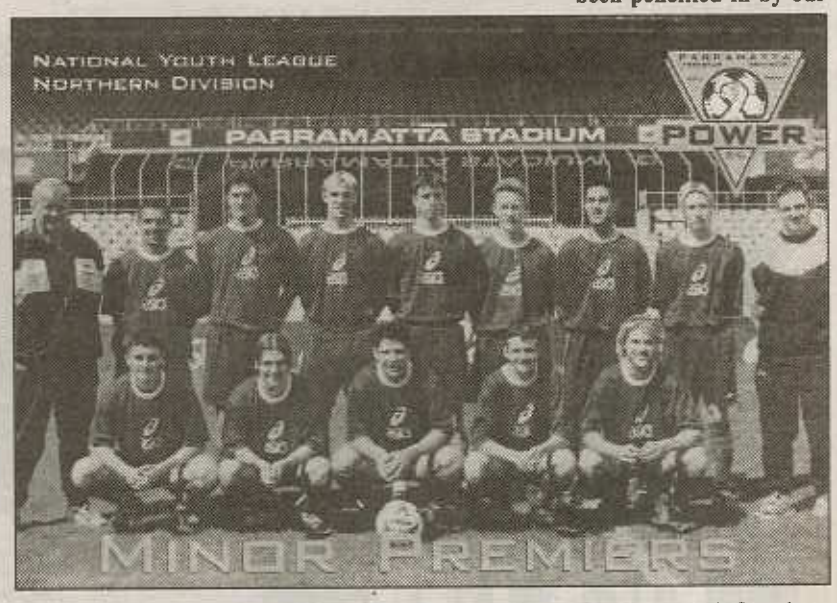
The Young Power squad scored a massive 100 goals in 32 games, losing just three.

Brendon Santalab, (younger brother to first team defender Michael), scored another two goals last Sunday afternoon against the Northern Spirit's Colts side which they defeated 4-0.

These two goals lifted Santalab 'Junior's' tally to 16 for the season, just two more than Matt Thompson who did not play in Sunday's Youth match, having been upgraded to David Mitchell's first team midfield that did battle against the visiting Auckland Kingz.

To McFadden and his bonnie 'powerful Youth' squad, heartiest congratulations on your 'first past the post' in your first League season.

Yi kenna doo better thun thaat, Kenya Paul?



Allan Griffiths, assistant Youth coach, plus Paul McFadden, Youth Coach, flank the Northern Minor League Champions.

●●●●

ZORAN MATIC, Adelaide City's hard taskmaster is one that rarely hands out 'wraps' on players, especially if he plays for the 'Black and Whites'.

Last Sunday night the surly Zoran after guiding Adelaide City to finish the League in an amazing fourth spot on the ladder, most willingly made this even more amazing statement on 19-year-old right midfielder Matthew Kemp.

"Matthew will play for Australia and do the job at the coming Olympics."

Big words, but remember, they came from a 'Big Man'.

●●●●

Matthew Kemp: The 'Black and Whites' right midfielder.

SYDNEY UNITED last season proudly won the Minor League Championship against all odds, but dipped out in the Grand Final to incumbent League Champions, South Melbourne, in Melbourne.

From finishing first past-the-post last season to clear last this season, vividly highlights how one's fortunes can change so dramatically within the ranks of Australian Soccer.

Of course United suffered hugely by the mass exodus of no less than 14 players at the end of last season that decimated the Club's first team squad.

The exodus saw a river of players either transferred or retire, leaving virtually only seasoned campaigner and veteran skipper Velimir Kupresak still there.

Which now brings us to an extended and most vital point.

Four NSL Clubs have all previously won the NSL Championship.

Yet all four no longer today exist in the NSL.

Have we forgotten already the might of St George, Sydney City, Apia-Leichhardt and Brunswick Juventus?

All previous National League Champions with two of them being just that on numerous occasions.

Surely there's a very frightening lesson for all of us, including every current NSL club, all coaches, all players, the 'Players' Union', groundsmen, our media, plus let's not forget our most illustrious Soccer hierarchy.

Velimir Kupresak: Sydney United's champion defender.

Surely utlimate responsibility falls, even though unevenly, on everyone's shoulders.

●●●●

PARAGUAY'S NATIONAL team is expected to arrive in Australia for two matches against Frank Farina's national squad.

The South Americans who will be armed with their unorthodox and flamboyant goal-scoring goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert, have already been pencilled in by our authorities to play on June 11th.

Strange date, isn't it?

June 11th was many months ago blueprinted for our coming NSL Grand Final with the venue already now determined to be either Perth or Wollongong.

It now seems we have a collision course for the two attractions, don't we?

"Not really," stated a Soccer official to 'Good Oil'.

"We can easily play a Double Header with the Australia vs Paraguay match acting as a 'Curtain Raiser' to the NSL Grand Final," answered said Soccer official with questioning eyes bulging inside their lids.

Can you believe this?

Contemplate for a minute the following

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

By John Economos

scenario:

Date: Saturday week May 20th.

Venue: Wembley Stadium.

Curtain Raiser: England vs Paraguay.

Main Game: F.A. Cup Final between Aston Villa vs Chelsea.

'Some Mothers Do Have Them'.

Don't they?

Jose Luis Chilavert: Paraguay's goal-scoring goalkeeper.

●●●●

MARCONI's two steel-tough midfielders Mike Smith and Chad Gibson missed last Sunday's away match against the Canberra Cosmos through injury and suspension.

The lethal left-footed

Chad Gibson: Marconi's steely midfielder back for Sunday.

Smith has been forced to miss the 'Top Six Series' through a lingering injury near the groin area which could require surgery, whilst Gibson still has another match suspension to serve.

●●●●

CARLTON last Sunday week received a record of 59,500 hits on their Webcast site for the Club's away match against Sydney Olympic at Belmore Sports Ground.

Carlton's website is www.carltonsoccer.com.au

●●●●

ANDY HARPER, Newcastle Breakers' highly experienced and constructive striker, last week, (but this time off the pitch), once again proved just what a class act this guy really is.

The Northern NSW Soccer Federation staged a Golf Day organised by long time Novocastrian Soccer identity Kenny Kaiser to raise urgently needed funds for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.

As well as 'Harps' national coaches Frank Farina and Graham Arnold played in the tournament.

All three Soccer personalities excelled very well on the course, whacking their shots long and straight down the fairways.

A raffle had also been organised to boost the fund-raising's kitty.

Yep, Andy 'scored' the first prize, which was a valuable luxury holiday for two up at Queensland's Gold Coast.

Kenny Kaiser advised 'Good Oil': "I'd never met Andy before our Golf Day but he always looked to me on television to be an intelligent and quite decent type of bloke.

"Well when it was announced he had won the Gold Coast Holiday, without hesitation, he promptly donated it back to be auctioned off."

Kaiser then expanded: "Andy's extremely considerate gesture went to auction and raised an extra $900:00 for this very worthy cause."

You're all class Mr Harper.

Northern NSW Soccer Federation's Golf Day: l to r: Frank Farina, Kenny Kaiser and younger brother, plus 'Good Samaritan' and class act, Mr Andy Harper.

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SYDNEY OLYMPIC v ADELAIDE CITY

"TOP SIX SERIES" — 1ST LEG ELIMINATION SEMI-FINAL

Branko Culina

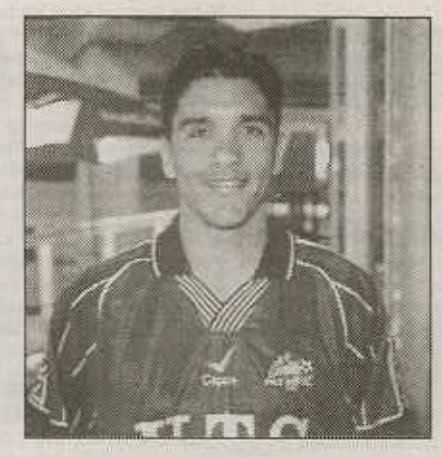
BELMORE SPORTS GROUND

THIS SUNDAY, MAY 14

Zoran Matic

***MAIN GAME** KICK-OFF 5PM*

Captain: Peter Tsekenis



Pablo Cardozo

Damian Mori

Captain: Alex Tobin

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Potential Socceroo squad Revealed

Dear Sir,

With the recent achievements of Harry Kewell, Mark Viduka and Craig Moore overseas, I have become motivated to look at the strength of our Socceroos and try and select a side that will get us successfully through to Japan & Korea in two years for the next World Cup.

I invite others to voice their opinions on who they think should be there. Ideally it is only Frank and Arnie's opinions that count but let's try it anyway.

And while I'm here can anyone explain why Mike SajRynes, Tony Grdic or Kresimir Marusic have not rated a mention when selecting Socceroo sides?

Sajrynes has been a consistent performer in the tough Czech Rep. League where he faces quality opposition each week. Yet I sense that many readers of ABSW have never heard of him. Tony Grdic is also playing top flight European competition and whilst he may struggle to win a place in the tough LG Socceroo backline, he deserves his chance ahead of a lot of these Aussies who may shine in the greater exposed yet lower standard lower divisions in England (no disrespect to these achievers).

A 38 Man squad. I know I need to cut it down, but I guess it's a start. I've got a starting 11 but I'll wait to reveal that until others send in their squads.

1. BOSNICH	14.ALOISI	27.TIATTO
2. LAYBUTT	15.CORICA	28.LOVELL
3. T.VIDMAR	16.JOHNSON	29.GRELLA
4. COLOSIMO	17.RIZZO	30 SCALZI (GK)
5. MOORE	18.LAZARIDIS	31 BOUTSIANIS
6. FOXE	19.AGOSTINO	32 KINDTNER
7. OKON	20.SCHWARZER (GK)	33 MILICIC
8. SIMUNIC	21.TALAY	34 NEILL
9. VIDUKA	22.FOSTER	35 DE AMICIS
10.ZELIC	23.SAJRYNES	36 CARDOZO
11.KEWELL	24.MUSCAT	37 TRAJKOVSKI
12.SKOKO	25.GRDIC	38 ZDRILLIC
13.POPOVIC	26.MARUSIC	

DANIEL PENNISI
ASPLEY QLD

Daniel, an interesting selection. I look forward to receiving other squads from avid fans. I look forward to seeing your starting 11. - Ed.

LOCAL OR OVERSEAS

Dear Sir,

In response to my last letter "World Cup Priorities" the editor mentions that we tried the overseas super coach approach and it failed.

So if we fail with a local coach, what's the difference.

The difference Vince is that our Socceroos were not given the best possible chance of making it to the finals if we fail again. Plus the biggest difference is that Basil Scarsella is covering his own backside (job) in going for a local guy.

Say what you and many others want about David Hill, but at least he had a go, and put his job on the line in doing so.

His biggest mistake of course was believing that once he signed on Terry Venables that we were absolute certainties to make the World Cup finals.

He knew that his job would be on the line. If he failed, but still took the chance, because failure was never ever on his mind.

He at least had a positive attitude even though it did not turn out that way. We all know now in hindsight, that it takes more than just a high profile coach to get a country to the World Cup finals, but a proper plan.

This mob we have now, has nothing but a negative and loser's attitude, which suits them fine, as long as their job is 100 per cent safe.

Finally I believe if David Hill was given another four year term, we would have rectified most of the problem areas and mistakes made the first time around.

But that was not meant to be, because such is the nature of soccer at the top level, there is no room for sentiment or excuses for failure on a four yearly event, unlike the domestic competition which is held every year, where mistakes and errors can be rectified the following season.

It's a shame really, because if he admitted his mistakes instead of going into self denial after the Iran debacle, he may still have been around today with the Socceroos playing a game each month, once again under a high profile pedigree locally based coach, with Frank Farina as assistant coach to both the Olyroos and the Socceroos to gain experience.

Unfortunately, we will just have to put up with an administration that has a negative mentality, all because no-one in soccer can tolerate naive mistakes at the top level of football.

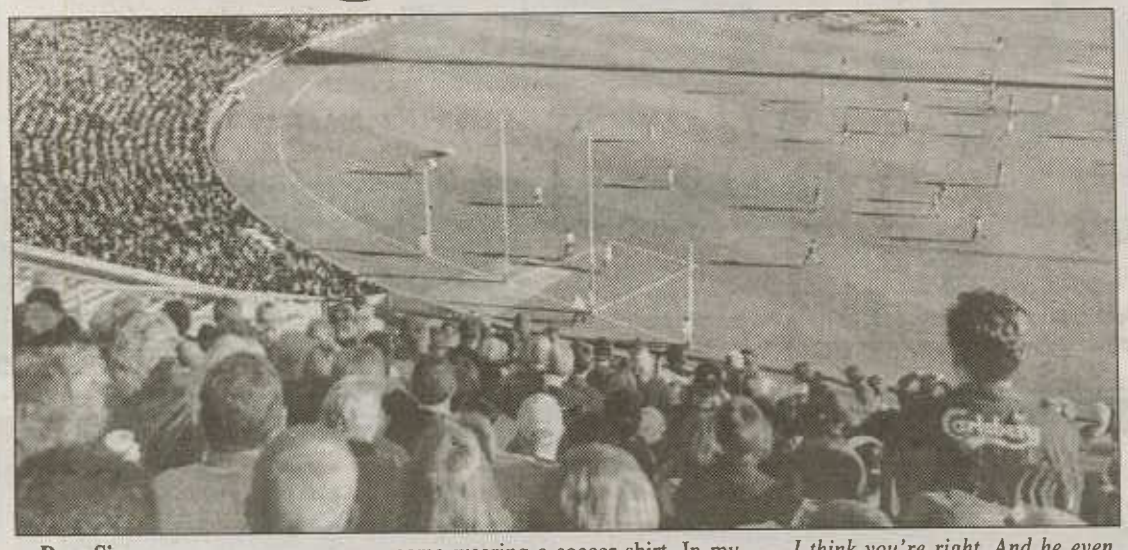
Dominic Scullino,
Nerang, Qld.

Dominic, my comments last week have been mis-interpreted by you. I know this because you yourself have echoed my sentiments when in this letter you say that David Hill's mistake was believing we were absolute certainties for World Cup qualification when he signed on Terry Venables.

If there is one certainty in soccer it's that there are no certainties.

You mention what was 'meant to be'. Well if it was 'meant to be' then Frank Farina will do the job. We shall wait and see. - Ed.

Wrong Code Buddy



Dear Sir,

I have been a soccer fan since the day my old man used to take me on the beach back in Morecombe in the north of England and I would never think of going to an airial ping-pong game wearing a soccer shirt. In my opinion the chap in the enclosed photo is not a true soccer fan.

D. Gardner
Hampton Park, VIC.

I think you're right. And he even had the guts to stand up and show off!
Ed

SBS WAY AHEAD

Dear Sir,

No TV Channel can compete with SBS regarding expertise in soccer. SBS has the most extraordinary team of soccer experts who each week analyse very professionally the soccer activity in Australia and world wide.

Soccer Australia should listen to them very carefully and should use their very objective and constructive criticism. To take very seriously SBS recommendations: "How can soccer be improved in Australia?" The SBS soccer expert team led by Mr Soccer of Australia, Les Murray, having beside him Johnny Warren – an Aussie soccer legend and very experienced soccer commentator, Kyle Patterson, Paul Williams, Tony Palumbo and Andy Harper, all very intelligent, very well informed soccer experts. Their weekly 'On The Ball' program is very professional, educative, constructive and objective. They analyse the positives and negatives of Aussie soccer. Soccer Australia is making a big mistake if they ignore the SBS experts. It's time for Soccer Australia to recognise SBS excellent contribution to Aussie soccer.

Former Soccer Australia boss, David Hill, made a very big mistake taking soccer away from SBS and handing over to less competent - less effective commercial channels and to ABC. Soccer Australia must do everything to correct the mistake of David Hill. Soccer must go back to SBS. They are the principal soccer channel.

Commercial TV channels and the ABC are betraying soccer supporters. Only SBS earned the trust of soccer fans. Give soccer back to SBS.

Thank you SBS for your great support to soccer. Wake up Soccer Australia before it's too late!"

Nick Szego
Soccer Fan

SBS might stand for Special Broadcasting Station, but to all us truly mad soccer fans it has always stood for Soccer Broadcasting Station. What would we do without them. - Ed.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION – LOWER DIVISIONS

FEDERATION DIVISION ONE

FIRST GRADE: Fraser Park 1 (D Rosenthal 13m) Hurstville City 3 (N Andreou 5m M Sarikakis 53m H Bayhan 83m), Auburn United 0 Dulwich Hill 4 (E Hristodoulou 50m L Dounis 66/81m R Nasser 90m), Hajduk Wanderers 2 (J Ellul 2m J Anderson 26m) Ryde City Gunners 1 (R Portelli 60m), Bathurst '75 1 (D Steptoe 70m) Illawarra Lions 3 (M Soper 54m D McCann 58m K Kotevski 76m), MSC Liverpool 1 (B Hewit 60m) AC United 3 (D Oliverio 25m C Holbrook 50m A Araujo 52m), Stanmore Hawks 2 (A Larra 44m M Rositano 66m) Rockdale City Suns 1 (S Naydoski 69m).

UNDER 21: Fraser Park 3 Hurstville City 1, Auburn United 0 Dulwich Hill 2, Hajduk Wanderers 1 Ryde City Gunners 0, Bathurst '75 1 Illawarra Lions 0, MSC Liverpool 0 AC United 0, Stanmore Hawks 1 Rockdale City Suns 0.

UNDER 18: Fraser Park 1 Hurstville City 2, Auburn United 0 Dulwich Hill 2, Hajduk Wanderers 1 Ryde City Gunners 0, Bathurst '75 10 Illawarra Lions 0, MSC Liverpool 2 AC United 2, Stanmore Hawks 2 Rockdale City Suns 0.

FEDERATION DIVISION TWO

FIRST GRADE: Sydney University 0 Mt Pritchard 1, White City 3 Sydney District 1, Hakoah 2 Greystanes 3, Hills United Mt Druitt Town Rangers Washed Out, Hurstville ZSC 4 Central Coast Lakers 1, Belmore Hercules 0 University of NSW 1.

UNDER 21: Sydney University 2 Mt Pritchard 1, White City 1 Sydney District 2, Hakoah 3 Greystanes 3, Hills United Mt Druitt Town Rangers Washed Out, Hurstville ZSC 2 Central Coast Lakers 0, Belmore Hercules 2 University of NSW 3.

UNDER 18: Sydney University 0 Mt Pritchard 4, White City Sydney District Washed Out, Hakoah 2 Greystanes 4, Hills United Mt Druitt Town Rangers Washed Out, Hurstville ZSC 3 Central Coast Lakers 2, Belmore Hercules 1 University of NSW 3.

FEDERATION DIVISION THREE

FIRST GRADE: Prospect United 3 Liverpool City 1, Nepean District Balmain Washed Out, Liverpool City 4 The Wanderers 6, Parramatta City 4 Colo Colo 4, Camden Tigers 1 Prospect United 2, Western Sydney Lions 3 Holy Cross Ryde 0, Trasandinos 0 Prairiewood United 5.

RESERVE GRADE: Prospect United 4 Liverpool City 0, Nepean District Balmain Washed Out, Liverpool City 0 The Wanderers 3, Parramatta City 2 Colo Colo 4, Camden Tigers 0 Prospect United 3, Western Sydney Lions 2 Holy Cross Ryde 2, Trasandinos 1 Prairiewood United 2.

FEDERATION DIVISION FOUR

FIRST GRADE: Kellyville Kolts 0 United Eagles 1, Springwood 3 Sporting SCC 2, Hawkesbury City 11 Maroubra United 1, Auburn Star 0 Granville Greenisland 1, CSI Schofields Marrickville Washed Out, Eastern Creek Pioneers Sydney Crescent Star Washed Out.

RESERVE GRADE: Kellyville Kolts 0 United Eagles 1, Springwood 3 Sporting SCC 1, Hawkesbury City 3 Maroubra United 2, Auburn Star 1 Granville Greenisland 2, CSI Schofields Marrickville Washed Out, Eastern Creek Pioneers Sydney Crescent Star Washed Out.

FEDERATION DIVISION FIVE

FIRST GRADE: Bossy 4 Kosciusko 1, Lithgow Workmen 3 Birrong Sports 0, Hinchinbrook Juniors 1 Fairfield City 4, Liverpool Olympic 0 Western Sydney Passion 9, UTS 3 Petersham 0.

RESERVE GRADE: Bossy 3 Kosciusko 3, Lithgow Workmen 3 Birrong Sports 1, Hinchinbrook Juniors 0 Fairfield City 3 (Win by Forfeit), Liverpool Olympic 7 Western Sydney Passion 0, UTS 1 Petersham 1.

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: NSW Academy Manly Warringah Dolphins Washed Out, Macarthur Rams 0 Marconi 8, Wollongong Wolves 1 Northern NSW/HAS 3, Sutherland Sharks 2 Nepean Association 1, Gladesville Ravens Central Coast Lakers Washed Out.

GRADE 21: Macarthur Rams 0 Marconi 5, Wollongong Wolves 1 Northern NSW/HAS 4, Sutherland Sharks 9 Nepean Association 0, Gladesville Ravens Central Coast Lakers Washed Out.

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: Roselands Raptors 5 UTS 1, Bathurst City 3 UTS 1, Roselands Raptors 1 Hajduk Wanderers 5, Inter Lions 0 Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 7.

GRADE 19: Bathurst City 2 UTS 3, Roselands Raptors 2 Hajduk Wanderers 4, Inter Lions 0 Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 7.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

GRADE 13: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 Marcarthur Rams 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins 1 Penrith Panthers 0, Bankstown City 0 Leichhardt Tigers 1, Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0 Marconi Stallions 1, Fairfield Bulls 2 Sydney Olympic 7, Sutherland Sharks 3 Sydney United 2, Wollongong Wolves Northern Spirit Washed Out, Newcastle Breakers Bonnyrigg White Eagles Washed Out, Central Coast Coasties 0 Macarthur Rams 1, St George 2 Blacktown City 3, Canterbury Marrickville 1 Parramatta Eagles 7.

GRADE 14: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 Macarthur Rams 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 4 Penrith Panthers 1, Bankstown City 1 Leichhardt Tigers 2, Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 2 Marconi Stallions 4, Fairfield Bulls 1 Sydney Olympic 3, Sutherland Sharks 2 Sydney United 2, Wollongong Wolves Northern Spirit Washed Out, Newcastle Breakers Bonnyrigg White Eagles Washed Out, Central Coast Coasties 0 Macarthur Rams 1, St George 0 Blacktown City 6, Canterbury Marrickville 1 Parramatta Eagles 4.

GRADE 15: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 Macarthur Rams 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 3 Penrith Panthers 3, Bankstown City 1 Leichhardt Tigers 1, Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 2 Marconi Stallions 4, Fairfield Bulls 0 Sydney Olympic 2, Sutherland Sharks 3 Sydney United 0, Wollongong Wolves Northern Spirit Washed Out, Newcastle Breakers Bonnyrigg White Eagles Washed Out, Central Coast Coasties 1 Macarthur Rams 4, St George 1 Blacktown City 1, Canterbury Marrickville 3 Parramatta Eagles 5.

GRADE 16: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 Macarthur Rams 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 3 Penrith Panthers 0, Bankstown City 0 Leichhardt Tigers 3, Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0 Marconi Stallions 11, Fairfield Bulls 1 Sydney Olympic 3, Sutherland Sharks 0 Sydney United 3, Wollongong Wolves Northern Spirit Washed Out, Newcastle Breakers Bonnyrigg White Eagles Washed Out, Central Coast Coasties 2 Macarthur Rams 2, St George 1 Blacktown City 0, Canterbury Marrickville 0 Parramatta Eagles 2.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE

GRADE 13: Rockdale City Suns 0 Southern Branch 2, AC United Blacktown Association Washed Out, Illawarra Lions 2 Ryde City 2, Mt Pritchard 0 Hills United 4, Hajduk Wanderers Stanmore Hawks Washed Out, Nepean Association Canterbury Association Washed Out, Rockdale City Suns 6 Canterbury Association 1, Stanmore Hawks 2 Southern Branch 11, Mt Pritchard 2 Illaw. Lions 5.

GRADE 14: Rockdale City Suns 2 Southern Branch 1, AC United Blacktown Association Washed Out, Illawarra Lions 4 Ryde City 1, Mt Pritchard 0 Hills United 0, Hajduk Wanderers Stanmore Hawkes Washed Out, Nepean Association Canterbury Association Washed Out, Rockdale City Suns 2 Canterbury Association 1, Stanmore Hawks 2 Southern Branch 2, Mt Pritchard 1 Illawarra Lions 1.

GRADE 15: Rockdale City Suns 0 Southern Branch 4, AC United Blacktown Association Washed Out, Illawarra Lions 3 Ryde City 4, Mt Pritchard 0 Hills United 1, Hajduk Wanderers Stanmore Hawks Washed Out, Nepean Association Canterbury Association Washed Out, Rockdale City Suns 1Canterbury Association 1, Stanmore Hawks 1 Southern Branch 3, Mt Pritchard 0 Illawarra Lions 2.

GRADE 16: Rockdale City Suns 0 Southern Branch 6, AC United Blacktown Association Washed Out, Illawarra Lions 3 Ryde City 1, Mt Pritchard 1 Hills United 2, Hajduk Wanderers Stanmore Hawks Washed Out, Nepean Association Canterbury Association Washed Out, Rockdale City Suns 0 Canterbury Association 3 (Win By Forfeit), Stanmore Hawks 0 Southern Branch 2, Mt Pritchard 1 Illawarra Lions 2.

FULL SUPER LEAGUE RESULTS & TABLES PAGE 15

IN SEARCH OF COACHING DIETY

Souths Search For Postecoglou Replacement In The Lap of the Gods

By Bert van Bedaf

South Melbourne admits it won't be easy to find another coach like Ange Postecoglou. But the search for his successor is on in earnest. Club president George Vasilopoulos has declared it a "matter of urgency".

Melbourne editor Bert van Bedaf followed the trail.

This, of course, is only a hypothetical tale and told tongue in cheek, but the story goes George Vasilopoulos prayed to Zeus, the Greek chief god of the Olympians, asking him for another Ange to set South Melbourne back on its glorious path.

Turning his worry beads at an ever anxious pace, Vasilopoulos arrived at his final plea, "Please, father of the Olympians and wife to Hera, deliver us another man like Postecoglou, who has given this club two championships, much fame and glory."

Zeus fired one of his thunderbolts that shook the South grandstand at Albert Park Lake, before calling from above, "Dear George, I can send you my son Heracles, famed for his strength, courage and his 12 labours, but you're asking me to deliver the Mighty God himself to you, and that is even beyond the powers of an Olympian like me."

And there you have it. No matter how much Vasilopoulos prays, he will have to settle for earthly powers - Postecoglou's only a man after all, but a revered and admired one at the Lakesiders and as much a youthful diety as the prodigious son of Zeus.

Mind you, South Melbourne won't be short of candidates. The telephone hasn't stopped ringing, since Postecoglou stepped down to become Australia's youth coach last week, and the mailman is doing overtime as applicants trip over themselves to become his successor at South.

Without question it is the highest profile coaching appointment in Melbourne - and at Victoria's most successful club. It has entertained the company of such legends as Ferenc Puskas, of former Socceroos coach Frank Arok and savours the legacy of Jim Pyrgolios.

Therefore, it's not surprising applicants from overseas and Australia - from England and Greece - have submitted their resumes, and, of course, locally from Sydney and Melbourne.

There are several Melbourne candidates being pencilled in on a long and speculative shortlist, not the least of them, Mike Petersen. A former South Melbourne player and assistant coach, he is currently coach of St Albans in the Victorian Premier League. Petersen has yet to be approached by South, but he is one of the names being discussed.

"Mike (Petersen) is a good coach. We would not hold him back if he wishes to go. Everybody would want to coach at a higher level. But I feel he might need one or two more years in the Premier League to gain more experience," a protective St Albans president Branko Starek said.

Former South Melbourne player and Socceroo legend Alan Davidson is also among the leading candidates. Davidson also played in England and Malaysia and at the Melbourne Knights before retiring and becoming coach at Victorian Premier League club Bulleen this season.

But Davidson found it difficult to adjust to the part-time standards of the Victorian league and resigned after seven rounds, when results went against him. Possibly the full-time standards in the national league will be better suited to his demands, which set high store on commitment, endeavour and dedication.

George Vasilopoulos: Looking for another Ange Postecoglou.

Melbourne Knights coach Vlado Vanis is believed to have received a mystery telephone call, inquiring about his availability.

A South official commented that the Vanis call, if dialled, was not made on behalf of the club. "We don't do business like that. It would not be fair to the Melbourne Knights."

Vanis is yet to re-sign with the Knights, but an appointment at South is considered to be an outside chance. Vanis is most likely to try and steer the Knights to a top six spot next season.

Another big name that features high on the list is Nick Theodorakopoulos, currently coach of Wollongong Wolves. If the money is right, 'Big Nick' might be lured to the Lake come October.

Greek first division coach Nick Argiroulis also submitted his list of achievements. A former Olympiakos player, he's coached Larissa for 10 years and guided minor club Paniliakos through two promotions.

The latest name is former England international and Liverpool champion, Steve McMahon, who contacted the club last week.

A Liverpool, Everton and Manchester City stalwart and a former English international, McMahon is another Englishman wishing to find a niche in the Australian soccer scene. He managed Swindon from 1994 until last year and can boast of a 1996 second division championship.

As far as an overseas appointment goes, South is watching the dollars.

"Several people of the board have been impressed by the applications, but the bottom line will be the financial costs," Vasilopoulos said.

Quietly, the argument also runs whether Australian soccer really needs another overseas club coach, regardless where he comes from.

Although German coach Bernd Stange has shown his considerable credentials at Perth Glory and proved popular, the recent trend in the NSL and at national levels is the appointment of young Australian coaches, such as David Mitchell, Graham Arnold, Eddie Krncevic, with overseas experience.

Frank Farina as Socceroos coach is a significant exponent of home grown talent and the standard bearer.

Although he didn't play or coach overseas, Postecoglou represented Australia at youth and senior levels and his appointment as U17 and U20 coach has been received with general approval and praise.

Puskas was South's greatest overseas coaching coup, when Australian and especially Melbourne soccer needed stellar enlightment.

To be fair, Puskas didn't have to do much to win a championship (1984) with a team that oozed greatness. His coaching methods were relaxed and his tactics simple. To rephrase a former Labor leader and Governor-General, Bill Hayden, "Blind Freddy could have won a title with this team." But the appointment of such a legend as Puskas ushered a soccer torch to Melbourne that focused more attention on the sport than it had been able to attract previously.

Someone missing from the parade is former South player (in 1984 team) and Socceroo captain, Paul Wade, now a soccer commentator on commercial television. Another major name overlooked is Ken Murphy, currently coaching Fawkner in the Victorian Premier League.

Murphy played for six years at South Melbourne. He represented Australia in World Cup qualifiers and coached the now defunct Melbourne Zebras in the national league as well as the Melbourne Knights. He, also, is yet to receive a call.

During a recent club function at Crown Casino, South Melbourne officials discussed the options in a bid to obtain as many opinions to be able to make the right decision.

"It is not about a particular person, it is about what it right for this club," senior vice president Jim Karakoussis said.

Paramount is the desire to continue the successful path Postecoglou paved in four years at the helm. Involved in all four national championships, as a player (1984), captain (1991) and coach (1998, 1999), the general belief is that it will be difficult to repeat the unique presence of Postecoglou at the club.

There simply is not another exponent like Postecoglou, whose presence at South stretched back 26 years, from an eight-year-old junior to a 34-year-old coach, who forged back-to-back championships with a tightly knit group of players.

Of those, David Clarkson and John Anastasiadis emerged as coaching possibles, but both players cheerfully dismissed speculation as fanciful.

Captain Paul Trimboli, who resigned his job as an accountant to concentrate on two years as a full-time player, also declined to be included in the speculative list.

Trimboli has become the first NSL player to have played 350 games and scored 100 goals in the history of the league and, no doubt, he will feature in South's future plans once his playing career has come to an end.

What has emerged is a desire by the club to find someone who is or was closely connected to South Melbourne's long history, which counts such a rich Greek heritage, and a person knowledgeable of Australia's national competition, clubs, players and the club's prominent status.

"We've experienced some tremendous highs (Brazil's World Club Championship) this season and some lows (not making the finals this season and being unable to win three championships in a row). The club needs someone (like Postecoglou) who can bring the club back to its rightful place at the top of the ladder next season," Trimboli said.

SPECIAL SUNDAY FOR YOUNG JAMES

By Bert van Bedaf

Sunday was a special day for James Verlander, who was South Melbourne's mascot for the day.

The seven-year-old ran on to the Bob Jane stadium pitch before the national league match against Newcastle for the first time in his young life, which is threatened by cancer.

Little James is a member of the Paul "Trimmers" Trimboli juniors club at South Melbourne and a keen supporter of Melbourne's most famous soccer club.

Tragedy struck suddenly for the tiny soccer fan.

When he was about to step on to the green grass at the club of his dreams five months ago, doctors at the Royal Children's Hospital told him and his parents he had a tumor in his lower abdomen, his mother Anna Verlander said.

"He started chemotherapy at the Royal Children's Hospital last November to get rid of it. He was just about to attend the Trimmers club when he got sick. He's never been on the ground before," Mrs Verlander said.

Young James was guest of the South Melbourne club as part of Challenge, a cancer support network. "He's our VIP guest for the day," South general manager Damien Phillips said.

All keyed up and ready to go, he strode up to his hero, South Melbourne captain Paul Trimboli, and said, "Good luck".

"We all hope you get well," Trimboli told him.

Then they walked out together onto the turf, each striding purposefully into the uncharted waters of sport and life.

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CLUBS BURN WHILE VSF FIDDLES

By Bert van Bedaf

The Victorian Premier League management committee can expect a fiery meeting tomorrow night (Tuesday, May 9) as some clubs are prepared to revolt over the cancellation of summer soccer, as a result of the delayed introduction of a national league second division from this year to next year.

Contrary to earlier statements made by the chief executive of the Victorian Soccer Federation, Geoff Miles, that the decision to cancel was made "in consultation with VPL clubs", some clubs claim they were not consulted and feel "cheated" by the federation.

Miles announced the cancellation of the summer competition last week. Clubs were notified by facsimile on April 19.

"As you are aware, the VSF Commission, in consultation with the Premier League clubs, has been considering the issue of timing of our next season," Miles wrote.

"The VSF has been advised by Soccer Australia that a second division of the NSL will be introduced to coincide with the restructure of the NSL for the 2001/2002 season.

"Accordingly, the VSF Commission has resolved that the next Premier League season will commence in the first week of February 2001, as was the case for the current season.

"The Commission believed that the decision to confirm the timing of the next season had to be made this time, due to issues of club planning and sponsorship of the league.

"The VSF would like to canvass the views of all the clubs regarding the issue of the finals for the 2001 season and the Commission looks forward to receiving your written preferences on this subject."

Some clubs claim cancellation has caused losses and they may be asking for compensation. They say the VSF commissioners have gone back on earlier promises and they are ready to vent their spleen.

One of the aggrieved clubs is St Albans. "It is ridiculous what the commissioners are doing," Saints president Branko Starek said.

"We made plans to have two seasons in a year, because of the introduction of a second division. We offered combined membership and special sponsorship deals. Is the VSF going to compensate us for it," he asked.

"I feel very much cheated and I am strongly against the decision. I would not be surprised if there was a reversal," he said.

Geoff Miles: Clubs were notified.

At the core of the upheaval is the introduction of the second division of the NSL, which was scheduled for October but has been postponed until next year. While the VPL was reduced to 12 clubs and dropped its championship play-off matches this season to accommodate the start of a second division, the planning of the new competition continues to be shrouded in uncertainties.

"We dropped two clubs (four VPL clubs relegated and two clubs were promoted from the State League) and we didn't have finals for that reason.

This was talked about for the last three years. Clubs were made to go through all this and now they've pulled the pin on it," Starek said.

Starek also doubted whether a second division would work. "If it's feasible I would agree. But I can't see it. There hasn't been any criteria put up for it. Once they (Soccer Australia) come up with costs, clubs will really think about it. We need to know what the criteria are going to be and what the costs are," he said.

At Bulleen, one of the clubs wanting to join a second division, the mood is one of caution. Zebras president Michael Catalano agrees more clarity is needed.

"I'd like to see it ratified. Clubs need to know now, so that they can plan in advance," Catalano said.

"I'm not running my business planning for next week. We're looking ahead two years. But in soccer we leave things to chance."

He was not surprised summer soccer was cancelled and had no objections.

"I tend to agree, because there wasn't enough time to prepare and because nothing was set in concrete regarding the second tier.

"We're talking about jumping a step. We're not assuming to be in a second division, we're hopeful. But we need to know how to prepare. How it will work financially, on and off the field," he said.

Bulleen has appointed a full time marketing manager, Tiffany Harrison, to raise the club's profile and sponsorship.

"Her role is to drum up support in preparation for the second division.

We need to prepare ourselves financially, because we're not going to exist in the Premier League but (we will) in an NSL second division," Catalano said.

"But the selection process should be on the way now. The criteria should be in place and clubs should be told they're part of a shortlist. The clubs that are going to be involved should know now," he said.

Enigmatic Bentleigh Greens president Millissa Fischer-Massa dismissed the whole second division as a charade.

"What's the use of spending so much money? A second division is only something to shut people up. Clubs should have the chance to get straight to the top and not to something in between. I want to go straight to the top and not play second fiddle. What's the big deal playing second fiddle.

I'm not really for it," she said.

ACT PREMIER LEAGUE

By Graham Cooke

Gungahlin Juventus moved four points clear of its nearest opponent and Belconnen United scrambled back into the top four in a rain-shortened weekend of football in the ACT Premiership.

Only three of the scheduled five matches were played on Sunday after rain, which fell through most of the previous week, led to the postponement of University of Canberra against Weston Creek and Monaro v Capital City Suns.

Juventus beat Canberra Deakin 1-0, Steve Lazzari scoring the only goal of the match. Deakin pushed hard but lacked finishing power -

something they hope will be corrected when players return from National League duties, possibly as early as next week.

Belconnen United beat Canberra Olympic 7-1 with Marko Perinovic collecting a hat-trick at Hawker on Sunday. Daniel Camara (2), Jamie Mauro and Jason Dunn were United's other scorers. Marko's brother, Robbie Perinovic, was Olympic's scorer, from the penalty spot.

In the remaining match Tuggeranong United won the derby game with Burns Club 3-0 at Wanniassa Oval. Scott Conlon, Robert Schroder and Marc Conlon were the scorers.

Other results: Under 23, Belconnen United 5 Canberra Olympic 0, Burns Club 1 Tuggeranong United 1, Canberra Deakin 4 Gungahlin Juventus 2.

Under 19s: Belconnen United 3 Canberra Olympic 0, Burns Club 0 Tuggeranong United 13, Canberra Deakin 0 Gungahlin Juventus 3.

ACT PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gungahlin Juventus	6	6	0	0	18	6	18
Tuggeranong United	6	4	1	1	19	9	14
Monaro	5	4	0	1	20	10	12
Belconnen United	6	3	1	2	22	9	11
Canberra Deakin	6	3	0	3	14	13	9
Canberra Olympic	6	2	1	3	13	18	8
Capital City Suns	5	2	0	3	13	15	6
Burns Club	6	1	0	5	9	22	3
University of Canberra	5	1	0	4	4	14	3
Weston Creek Royals	5	0	1	4	5	22	2

Played on Tuesday, May 2 (Round 29 deferred match)

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0
PARRAMATTA POWER 1

By Greg Danvers

Just how cruel can a game of soccer be? Just ask Andy Harper. In his previous 29 appearances for the Newcastle Breakers Harper walked off the pitch with his head justifiably held high but in match number 30, the deferred Parramatta Power game won 1-0 by Power, he was a dejected man.

Unfortunately for Harper, his teammates and the 4781 mid week crowd he missed two left-footed second half penalties.

Had the two spot strikes found the back of the net Harper would have celebrated his 301st NSL match with his 100th NSL goal but it was not meant to be.

The Breakers, in their last home game of the season, attacked from the opening whistle to the final whistle but could not crack the winner, several times players laid off balls when they should have pulled the trigger themselves, or passes went astray such was the pressure from within to win.

Parramatta were not going to let Newcastle have an easy night and rolled down the freeway with the three competition points after Joel Griffiths converted from the penalty spot in the 30th minute.

Breakers defender Glen Sprod monstered Griffiths inside the box after he made a penetrating run into the area. Referee Brett Hugo had no hesitation in pointing to the spot when Sprod felled Griffiths.

Griffiths pushed the ball to the right with Breakers 'keeper Bob Catlin managing to get a glove on the ball but the speed and force carried it into the net for what turned out to be the match winner.

Twice in the second half, in the 72nd and 84th minutes, John Buonavoglia was brought down inside the box. The first penalty, by Harper, hit the left post while his second went agonisingly past the outside of the same post.

After the match, in the post game Press Conference, Breakers coach Lee Sterrey was asked how Harper was and replied:

"I wouldn't like to explain how Andy is at the moment. That's the game, sometimes it is cruel.

"He has probably put us in the position (on the table) that we are in at the moment.

"It is pretty hard on a bloke as an experienced as him, what can I say.

"It was a frustrating game from the point of view that we gave them a gift (penalty) so far as collaring a bloke (Griffiths) that's on a forty-five-degree angle with Bobby Catlin.

"He is a big goalkeeper and hard to beat on a bad angle and we coat hanger him, we have got to look back at our mistakes. It is probably the biggest mistake we have made for a long time."

Further frustration was shown when skipper Shane Pryce was booked on the stroke of half-time after a bit of push and shove with Griffiths and then showed dissent to Hugo. The booking was Pryce's seventh for the season and will now miss two matches.

"That was very much undisciplined from the captain and we spoke about that at half-time," Sterrey said.

Parramatta coach David Mitchell came to Newcastle with a game plan to match Newcastle and ensure his team acquitted themselves well.

"I thought Lee would have a 4-4-2 system so I wanted to match that," Mitchell said.

"I thought it was important that we gave good performance tonight for the good of the league and we wanted to win the game. We were a bit fortunate we won it and they missed both of their penalties.

"I think Lee's done a terrific job here and there has been a lot of people who did write them off but I'd rather be in his position now than mine because he's still got a chance (to make the finals)."

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0
PARRAMATTA POWER 1
(Joel Griffiths 30m penalty)

Venue: Breakers Stadium; **Crowd:** 4781; **Referee:** Brett Hugo.
Cautions: Shane Pryce (NB) 45; Joel Griffiths (PP) 59.
Teams: Newcastle Breakers: Catlin, Moore, Pryce (Dodd 70), McManus, Sprod, Wieczorek, Roberts, Wilson (Tancheski 46), Owens (Smith 78), Buonavoglia, Harper.
Parramatta Power: Smith, Barrett, Santalab (Townsend 74), Eagleton, Burns, Griffiths, Berry (Thompson 83), Byrnes, Elrich, Gibson, Taliadoros (Roodenberg 46).
ABSW Player Points:
3. Steve Eagleton (PP)
2. John Buonavoglia (NB)
1. Joel Griffiths (PP)

OFF THE CROSSBAR

By Allan Crisp

LEAD KINDLY LIGHT

Adelaide's much maligned $30 million, Hindmarsh Stadium, revamp has hit another hurdle with the Sydney Olympic Broadcasting Organisation declaring that the pitch lighting is below the required broadcast standard.

After an exhaustive test by SOBO officials, it was estimated that up to $50,000 would need to be spent to further improve the already upgraded lighting system.

Original opinion was that the four new lighting towers would provide adequate power to meet all television requirements.

The findings have added fuel to the political fires that have blazed ever since the stadium revamp began and costs spiralled above the original estimates.

SA Tourism Minister, Joan Hall, who is responsible for the Olympic soccer tournament in Adelaide, said the cost of improving the lighting would be shared equally between the State Government and SOCOG.

SOCOG Event Director in SA, Sam Ciccarello said the need to further improve the Hindmarsh Stadium lighting should not come as a surprise.

"It is what was expected," Ciccarello said. "We have known that the stadium lighting is of a base standard and that it is quite adequate for broadcasting NSL games," Ciccarello said.

"But, whereas only two or three cameras are used for NSL games, SOBO will have up to 20 cameras in operation during the Olympics.

"SOBO is taking a rigorous approach to insure that the infrustrature for top quality service will be installed, because it must be remembered that the tournament will be beamed to over 200 countries.

"All conceivable camera angles must be covered to include crowd shots, while the Press Conference area must be of the same level of lighting as that of the pitch."

Early indications are that the extra lighting will be installed on a temporary basis, but Ciccarello gave heart that SA soccer fans could receive a legacy after the Olympics by saying, "There is a possibility that the added lighting could be retained, but that is yet to be determined."

OLYROOS ADELAIDE CAMP

The Olyroos training camp, flagged in last week's ABSW edition, will begin in Adelaide on Monday (May 8).

But, those coaches worried that their players would be forced to miss the NSL finals need not sweat, because all Olyroos will be released for the business end of the season games.

The big bonus for local supporters will come in the shape of the visiting teams, who will act as sparring partners for our Under 23 team.

No names yet, but it is expected that nations that have already qualified for the September showdown will be heading here to study the surroundings.

NEW STAR ON HORIZON

Campbelltown Red Devils midfielder Jun Udagawa is the only Japanese-born player strutting his considerable stuff in the SA Premier League.

Popular with his team mates and the Campbelltown fans, Udagawa was acclaimed man-of-the-match for the 1-0 win over Port Lion.

Udagawa first came to Adelaide as an 11-year-old, but returned to Japan when his father was relocated by his employers.

The 20-year-old is back here doing the third year of a five-year University degree in mechanical engineering.

Red Devils coach John Evans was delighted by the tenacious attitude of Udagawa and his midfield colleagues, John Paul Chitti and Adam Perre and his new found strike force of veteran Joe Barbaro and teenager Domenic Signorietto.

The Reds, understandably took a while to find form this season, after losing Tony Scalzi, Duane Dobson and Lee Robertson from last year's squad.

Phil Scardigno: Proud new dad.

Meanwhile, Devils main striker Larry Piscioneri was relegated to the bench last Saturday after an interstate visit forced his absence from training.

IT'S A BOY

Congratulations are in order for Phil Scardigno whose wife Tania presented the Croydon Kings coach their first born, Eric Samuel last week.

Scardigno, an ex-Adelaide City player when the NSL began as the Philips League, this season took over the Kings coaching mantle from Jan Kierno.

BOMBS AWAY FOR JETS

Modbury Jets will kick-off the second half of the Premier League season by playing the first two of its opening three games at home.

But, after that, it will be all away for Modbury which staged most of its first round matches at home to allow for the complete revamping of its Golden Grove ground as an Olympic Games training facility.

DEATH OF SA SOCCER STAR

The South Australian soccer fraternity is mourning the death of former SA. Salisbury United and Birkalla midfield playmaker, John Williams.

Tributes have poured in for Williams, 33, who was an outstanding footballer.

Most poignant were messages penned by his nephews Nick and Tom, who expressed their gratitude to him for his coaching and encouragement towards their soccer development.

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

Nick Theodorakopoulos could very well rest players since the final competition game has no bearing on the team's position on the table.

Depending on the results in the last round the Wolves have probably two week's rest and could line-up against Perth Glory on Sunday May 28, possibly at Brandon Park.

■■■■

Sweeper Robbie Stanton has started in every game this season for the Wolves and will make it 34 matches against Carlton, quite an achievement. There are only five others, three are goalkeepers, who have started every game.

Robert Stanton is a model professional, preparing for every game carefully, looking after his physical health and fitness and at 28 still has a few top seasons left providing he stays injury free.

■■■■

Wolves Development officer Matthew Horsley is flat out spreading the soccer gospel.

He is continuing to visit Primary and High Schools to organise soccer skill-sessions for students and the response has been good.

Several Wolves first graders are assisting in his efforts to promote the code.

■■■■

Perth coach Bernd Stange, an experienced professional, handled the numerous media people superbly at the press conference after the Sunday game against the Wolves.

He found words of praise for opponent Nick Theodorakopoulos saying he should be happy — probably meant to be proud — with what he has achieved with the Wolves leading them to the top of the competition playing good soccer.

Having the chance to talk to Bernd Stange before the game he mentioned being quite happy to have a couple of great seasons in a beautiful city like Perth, the fans and players are fantastic.

He will stay on for another soccer season.

Several offers have been forthcoming from overseas and only time will tell with what influences his final decision.

Stange said he is considering buying a house in Perth to retire with his family eventually.

■■■■

Wolves Cubs results against Sydney United: U/11s drew 0-0, U/12s lost 0-2, U/13s won 1-0 the goal scored by Aaron Thompson, U/14s won 4-1 goals from Jason Thompson (2), Stuart Clarkson and Leo Quinones, U/15s drew 1-1 with a goal from Allan Constabile, U/16s won 2-1 goals scored by Harvey Ovano and Iain Hall, outstanding goal keeping Glenn Fisher.

■■■■

Wolves promotion of youngsters was demonstrated last Sunday prior to the game against Perth Glory.

In front of a full house the U/10s Roo-ball competition came to an end with the two top sides squaring up after a long contest lasting the season. Warilla played Albion Park U/10s, score 1-1, recount of corners gave the win to Warilla.

All players received trophies, applauded by the huge attendance. A huge thank you must go to organiser Mark Ostermeyer running 24 teams involved from Helensburgh to Kiama, playing four teams before each Wolves home game.

■■■■

Illawarra Soccer's Premier League coaches vote once per month for the outstanding club coach with a sponsored award from the Hellenic club.

For April Lysaghts's Phil Matias has been named coach of the month, his side being unbeaten in eight rounds. The coach of the year will be named at Soccer Illawarra's annual awards night.

■■■■

Illawarra Soccer results from Round 8 in ICU Premier League: Lysaghts 0 Kemblawarra 0, Albion Park 0 Northern United 1, Tarrawanna 2 Bulli 1, Consiston 1 Western Suburbs 3. Port Kembla 3 Cringila 1, Shoalhaven City 1 Wollongong Olympic 2. Leaders at present Wollongong Olympic — Lysaghts — Port Kembla and Kemblawarra.

ICU First Division results: Woonona 0 Fernhill 1, Dapto 1 Warilla 0, Kiama 2 Picton Rangers 2, Helensburgh 4 Shellharbour City 1, Highlands 0 Berkeley 0, Illawarra United 1 Bellambi 6, South Coast United 0 Balgownie 0. Leaders at present are Helensburgh — Picton — Dapto — Bellambi and Balgownie Rangers.

■■■■

The outstanding junior team of the month is Oak Flats U/14s with a great start to the season, winning Gala Day and their first competition game.

COSMOS REACH CROSSROADS

By Graham Cooke

The chairman of the Canberra Cosmos, Ian Knop, has called a press conference for today (Tuesday), amid mounting speculation the club is approaching a decisive crossroads in its history.

The extent of the Cosmos' financial problems has been leaking out in recent weeks, and it appears obvious the club cannot continue another season making the losses sustained up until now.

Ian Knop: Plans to be announced.

Revenue from recent crowds at Bruce Stadium has not even covered the cost of hiring the facility; sponsorship, although at a higher level than previous years, does not fill the gap.

And while the club remains unsuccessful, revenue from other sources, such as merchandising and program sales, is just so much petty cash.

Officials were hoping the attendance for the last game of the season, against Marconi, on Sunday, would show a healthy increase after a club record run of three consecutive wins.

But as coach Tom Sermanni says: "It would be ridiculous to pin the future of National League soccer in Canberra on the attendance at one game."

In Sermanni's view, the club can still recover its financial health "but there has to be a different structure".

He believes the Cosmos have become too dependent on crowd figures and sponsorship and must increase the number of their revenue streams.

That may be done in areas such as car raffles, or a more creative partnership with the ACT soccer community through Soccer Canberra, but inevitably it involves finding further seed capital, which means more donors, or more debt.

Fewer people are now prepared to throw good money after bad.

Money has been wasted in the past: extravagant season launches, highly paid coaches and players, and unregulated expenses have all contributed, but at base level the club must be able to pay wages and bills incurred in the running of a football business.

Sermanni said players like Peter Buljan and Lyndsay Wilson, who have both represented Australia and now play for other clubs in the NSL, got their start in big-time soccer through the Canberra Cosmos.

"If there had been no national league club here, they may well have still been pottering around in the local competition," he said.

"People should realise there could be a 15-year-old out there now with a brilliant soccer future who will depend on the Cosmos to get him started.

"I honestly believe that if you are part of soccer in Canberra, in any shape or form, you should be supporting the Cosmos."

In the meantime Knop, whose financial backing of the Cosmos over the last couple of years has kept the club's head above water, will announce his plans today.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	Total							Home						Away					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
PERTH GLORY	34	19	7	8	60	42	64	17	12	3	2	36	18	17	7	4	6	24	24
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	34	17	9	7	72	44	60	17	10	2	5	33	22	17	7	7	3	39	22
CARLTON SC	34	17	7	10	55	39	58	17	9	4	4	29	19	17	8	3	6	26	20
ADELAIDE CITY FORCE	34	16	8	10	57	37	56	17	11	3	3	36	17	17	5	5	7	21	20
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	34	16	7	11	56	40	55	17	9	5	3	36	18	17	7	2	8	20	22
MARCONI STALLIONS	34	16	7	11	53	49	55	17	10	2	5	30	24	17	6	5	6	23	25
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	34	14	9	11	44	44	51	17	8	5	4	28	21	17	6	4	7	16	23
AUCKLAND KINGZ	34	15	5	14	57	59	50	17	9	3	5	32	25	17	6	2	9	25	34
BRISBANE STRIKERS	34	13	10	11	46	40	49	17	8	6	3	31	18	17	5	4	8	15	22
SOUTH MELBOURNE	34	14	7	13	55	51	49	17	9	4	4	31	16	17	5	3	9	24	35
PARRAMATTA POWER	34	14	5	15	52	47	47	17	8	4	5	30	19	17	6	1	10	22	28
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	34	13	6	15	44	57	45	17	9	2	6	25	19	17	4	4	9	19	38
NORTHERN SPIRIT	34	11	3	20	41	58	36	17	8	2	7	22	22	17	3	1	13	19	36
CANBERRA COSMOS	34	9	9	16	44	64	36	17	5	4	8	20	27	17	4	5	8	24	37
GIPPSLAND FALCONS	34	7	8	19	23	49	29	17	4	4	9	13	21	17	3	4	10	10	28
SYDNEY UNITED	34	5	5	24	19	58	20	17	5	3	9	15	22	17	0	2	15	4	36

PERTH GLORY 1
(Harnwell 38)
NORTHERN SPIRIT 0

Venue: Perth Oval. **Crowd:** 13,554. **Referee:** M. Breeze.
Cautions: Catanzaro (NS) 81.
Teams: Perth Glory: Petkovic, Trajkovski (Afkos 80), Miller, Milicevic, Valle, Harnwell, Junior, Naven, Wehrman, Despotovski (Buljan 70), Schwertz.
Northern Spirit: Henderson, Crook, Bilokapic, Rudan, Langdon, T.Cranney, Cunico (Snyder 90), Enes, Slater, Bingley, R.Griffiths (Catanzaro 70).

CARLTON SC 2
(Moriera 19, Marth 52 pen)
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 1
(Ceccoli 28)

Venue: Olympic Park. **Crowd:** 1,732. **Referee:** S. Micallef.
Cautions: Nil.
Teams: Carlton SC: Anastasiadis, Deans, Colosimo, Douglas, Marth, Atkinson, Moreira (Vasilevski 72), Markovski (Conroy 55), Anthopoulos, Packer (Slater 75), Terminello.
Wollongong Wolves: Pogliacomi, Ceccoli, Stanton, Horsley, Sullivine, Hanlock, Petrovski, Huxley (Spencer 81), Masi, O'Grady, Robertson.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

D Mori	(Adelaide City Force)	22
P Cardozo	(Sydney Olympic)	19
M Curcija	(South Melbourne)	19
S Young	(Wollongong Wolves)	17
J Buonavoglia	(Newcastle Breakers)	16
Z Babic	(Marconi Stallions)	15
A Moreira	(Carlton SC)	15

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 3
(Sabljak 77, Kemp 84, Mori 92)
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1
(Nastevski 54)

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium. **Crowd:** 10,469. **Referee:** B. Hugo.
Cautions: Kelic (MK 30, Kemp (AC 78), Kovacevic (MK 90).
Teams: Adelaide City: Cagalj, Lagati, Tobin, Mori, Veart, Sabljak, Vidmar, Cartwright (Day 78), Kemp, Hassell, Pelosi.
Melbourne Knights: Acevski, Rajher, Kovacevic, Vukadi, Nastevski, Kelic, (Matkovic 73), Urlovic, Zold (Abbas Murtala 85), Kiratzoglou, Vargas, Pelikan (Magdic 63).

CANBERRA COSMOS 1
(Clarke 83)
MARCONI STALLIONS 1
(Maloney 30)

Venue: Bruce Stadium. **Crowd:** 2,586. **Referee:** J. Blaney.
Cautions: Milin (CC) 23, Castro (CC) 67, Care (MS) 67.
Teams: Canberra Cosmos: Konstantinou, Milin, Popovich, Purdue (Musitano 81), Castro, Hamilton, Prenzoski (James 69), Hooker, Clark, Roberts, De Jesus (Watkins 81).
Marconi Stallions: Turnbull, M.Babic, Longo, Kim, Care (Smith 79), Maloney, Invincibile, Farah, Renaud, Trajanovski, Zoric.

ABSW PLAYER OF THE YEAR
DAVID CERVINSKI

SOUTH MELBOURNE 4
(Anastasiadis 4, Trimboli 41, Magnacca 81, Curcija 88)
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0

Venue: Bob Jane Stadium. **Crowd:** 5,011. **Referee:** P. Mur.
Cautions: Nil.
Teams: South Melbourne: Jones, Isosifidis, DeAmicis, Clarkson (Tsekinis), Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli (Demourtzidis), Curcija, Anastasiadis (Magnacca), Culibrk.
Newcastle Breakers: Catlin, Roberts, McManus, Sprod, Dodd, Wilson, Buonavoglia, Owens (Tancheski 46), Harper (Juchniewicz 78), Moore, Smith (Trpcevski 59).

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3
(Cardozo 72 pen, Emerton 86, Carle 87)
SYDNEY UNITED 0

Venue: Belmore Sports Ground. **Crowd:** 5,233. **Referee:** G. Connolly.
Cautions: Arrarte (SU) 63, Genc (SU) 72, Maric (SU) 74.
Teams: Sydney Olympic: Perosh, Thomas, Zoricich, Cardozo, Emerton, Sinozic, Mendez (Carle 67), Kohler, Kyriazopoulos, Zorbas (Tsekenis 60), Marusic (Arambasic 80).
Sydney United: Hughes, Kupresak, Bosnar, Arrarte, Maric, Moric, Pondeljak, Bozinovski, Genc (Deur 77), Palapanis (Rakic 80), Bosevski (Pellegrino 75).

ELIMINATION FINALS

SATURDAY MAY 13
Marconi Stallions
vs
Carlton SC
Marconi Stadium 7pm

SUNDAY MAY 14
Sydney Olympic
vs
Adelaide City Force
Belmore SG 5pm

(All times provided are local times)

BRISBANE STRIKERS 2
(Stefanutto 14, Foster 61)
GIPPSLAND FALCONS 1
(Vargas 26 pen)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium. **Crowd:** 2,569. **Referee:** C. Diomis.
Cautions: Bell (BS) 25, Katz (GF) 35, Grierson (BS) 38, Nilo (GF) 45.
Teams: Brisbane Strikers: Bolton, Gwynne, Stefanutto, Bell (Webber 45), Foster, Srhoj, Dwyer, North, Grierson (Hews 74), Miner, McKain.
Gippsland Falcons: Jevdjevic, Fak, Gotis, Macnicol, Vargas, Bell, Robertson (Mandic 77), Savage, Nilo, Sekulovski (Marcina 38), Katz.

PARRAMATTA POWER 1
(Taliadoros 66)
AUCKLAND KINGZ 2
(Silva 25, Jones 93)

Venue: Parramatta Stadium. **Crowd:** 3,064. **Referee:** C. Zetter.
Cautions: Bunce (AK) 17, Van Steeden (AK) 27, De Jong (AK) 47, Lammers (AK) 80.
Teams: Parramatta Power: Smith: M.Santalab (Townsend 46), Barrett, Byrnes, Eagelton: Elrich, Ardone (J.Gibson 66), Thompson, Burns: Kukucka (Taliadoros 64), Sterjovski.
Auckland Kingz: Duke: Perry, Bunce, Hickey, Van Steeden (Jones 66), Campbell: Middleby (Jackson 54), Ngata, Vicelich: Silva (Lammers 74), de Jong.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

BRISBANE STRIKERS 2
GIPPSLAND FALCONS 1

By Glenn Davis

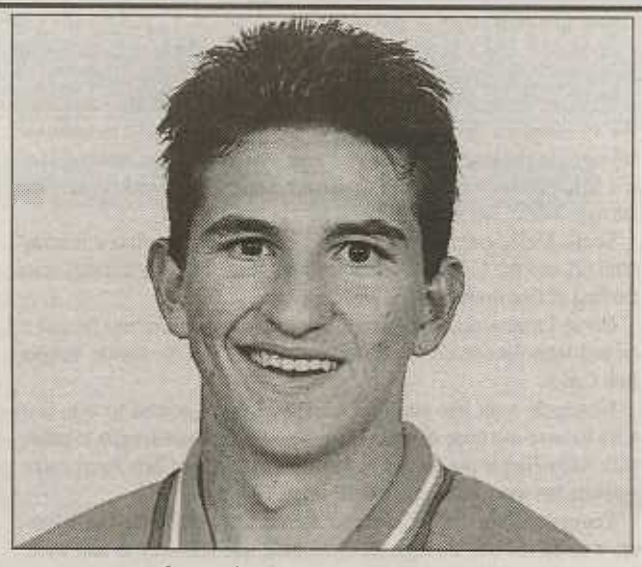
Brisbane Strikers' ended their season on a high with a comfortable 2-1 win against lowly placed Gippsland Falcons at Suncorp Stadium on Sunday night.

The Strikers were out of contention for a top six berth after losing their previous round clash against the Auckland Kingz and only had pride to play for in the dead rubber match.

The Strikers took only 14 minutes to take an early lead through defender Shane Stefanutto, who rounded two Gippsland defenders before combining with Paul Foster to slot home.

Gippsland hit back to level the scores 12 minutes later when striker Andy Vargas scored from the penalty spot after Strikers defender Matt Bell brought down Gippsland frontman Brian MacNicol.

The Strikers grabbed the lead for the second time after the break but had to wait until the 61st minute.



Shane Stefanutto: Strikers' best.

The winner came from a powerful blast from Foster at close-range after he capitalised on an earlier shot from midfielder Wayne Srhoj.

Foster had a late chance to put the game beyond doubt but was denied by a brilliant save from Gippsland keeper Bojo Jevdjevic, who was easily the visiting team's best player.

The Strikers led the competition with a team of relatively unknowns after the first nine rounds before hitting a mid-season form slump, which was compounded by off-season brawling in the boardroom.

The Strikers lost crucial points mid-season which coincided with a serious leg injury to Foster while in the board-room former chairman Tony Petty left the club after a shareholders dispute ended in the courts.

Brisbane's pride and the opportunity to finish higher up the table eventually prevailed in a dull affair against Gippsland, which finished the season with only cellar dwellers Sydney United behind it.

CANBERRA COSMOS 1
MARCONI STALLIONS 1

By Graham Cooke

Marconi Stallions scrambled into the finals, Canberra Cosmos equalled the best unbeaten run in their history - on the face of it both clubs can be satisfied with the 1-1 draw at Bruce Stadium on Sunday.

But there are other factors that take the gloss off the achievements of both. For Marconi it is the concern that compared with a few weeks ago, they are simply not playing well enough to have more than a fleeting impact on the top six series.

Coach Eddie Krncevic was putting a brave face on it with talk of the return of key players missing through either suspension or injury, and the fact Marconi habitually lift themselves for the end of season play-offs, but there was no disguising his concern at what he described as a "flat performance".

"A few weeks ago it was a case of whether we could make the top two - now we have to do it the hard way," he said.

Canberra coach Tom Sermanni has more fundamental concerns - whether doubts over the continued financial viability of the club can be cleared up quickly so he can begin assembling next season's squad.

Clearly the end-of-season spurt which has seen three wins and a draw in the last four games, will have an influence on sponsors, and the final crowd, while still thin at 2500, was almost double that of just a month ago.

Sermanni said inconsistency has been at the heart of what he described as his most frustrating and difficult season in management.

"We are a team which has, at times, played far better than our league position suggests," he said. "What we need now is a chance to run with a tighter squad, bring in a couple more players to add depth and quality, and above all, build on what we have achieved without the constant change which has dogged the club in every season until now."

The Cosmos began strongly, and Marconi can thank the dogged persistence of sweeper Pan-Keun Kim, who raced back to hack a chip shot from Andrew Clark off the line.

The visitors took the lead against the run of play in the 30th minute. Kris Trajanovski took the ball down the right flank and sent in a cross which the speedy Brad Maloney cracked into the roof of the net.

Both goalkeepers acquitted themselves well either side of half time. First Marconi's Michael Turnbull showed fine reactions to block a low drive from Alex Castro at point-blank range, then Angelo Konstantinou denied Maloney his second when he raced out to narrow the angle, blocking the subsequent shot with his feet.

Canberra had to wait a long time for the equaliser, and just as hope was slipping away, a corner from substitute Michael Musitano fell to Castro in the penalty area.

Turnbull blocked his shot and the ball ran loose for Clark to tuck away though a mass of players.

Eddie Krncevic: Brave face

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3
SYDNEY UNITED 0

By Daniel Giorelando

Sydney Olympic will enter their elimination series against Adelaide City Force on a high after last Sunday disposing of a gallant Sydney United 3-0 at Belmore Sports Ground.

Olympic were pressed by United who were once again let down by their inability to turn good chances into goals, while Olympic, who also suffered the same plague, managed to finally get the ball over the line albeit controversy.

Brett Emerton: Sealed the win with a crucial second goal.

The win allowed Olympic to finish fifth on the ladder, after Marconi surprisingly were unable to take all three points against Canberra.

Had Marconi done so, Olympic would have faced Carlton, who only last weekend disposed of the Blues 2-0 at Belmore, however they are now set to battle the form team of the moment, Adelaide City Force.

"We owe them one, we got robbed last year in the last game, we are pretty determined to get one back," said Olympic coach Branko Culina.

But against United, it took the home side 72 minutes to score the goal which sealed their spot in the top six, after Pablo Cardozo converted from the spot after United stalwart Velimir Kupresak was adjudged to have handled in his own penalty area.

The decision seemed harsh after substitute Nick Carle turned Kupresak inside out, before his cross was deflected by Kupresak only for referee Gerry Connolly to award a penalty.

Cardozo calmly converted to the right of United keeper Brett Hughes to send the 5,233 crowd into delirium.

While the win was a scrappy one for Olympic, coach Culina warned the rest of the top six that his side were yet to reach the form that they had showed mid season.

"We are still a long way from reaching our form from the middle of the season, we are not playing as well as we have.

"We are not as fluent as we would like to be but we are getting there slowly," a confident Culina warned.

The home side were never headed after taking the lead and whilst their fluency may not be as smooth as previously shown, their ability to make United pay late on in the match is a warning to the Force.

Olympic scored two goals in the final three minutes through Brett Emerton and Nick Carle, as the home side celebrated their re-entry into the finals with a bang.

The first of those two goals was the best of the night as a superb dribble by Emerton and a sweet one-two with Carle freed up Emerton in the United box before he blasted a shot from six yards under Hughes and into the net for 2-0.

Olympic were not done with yet as they racked up a third goal in stoppage time with yet another piece of individual brilliance, this time by Zlatko Arambasic who flicked a cross over his head and into the middle of the United penalty area.

The cross found Carle who rose above the defence to head home just inside the left post, a goal that was fully deserved.

The injection of Carle for Gabriel Mendez in the 67th minute seemed to provide the spark that lifted the home side. They began to use their possession more intelligently with Carle and Emerton running rings around their opposition.

However for all that Olympic were playing for, they never settled into any rhythm or any fluency and while they created a bagful of chances in the first 45 minutes, they could not put any of them away.

The best chance of the half fell to Kresimir Marusic after just nine minutes with youngster John Kyriazopoulos, Emerton and Cardozo all squandering chances in the first 45.

With Olympic becoming so wasteful, it looked as though United would spoil Olympic's night and the more the bottom placed club travelled up front, the closer they got to opening the score.

While they created little chances in the first 45, United opened the second stanza like a house on fire with Pondeljak stinging the gloves of Olympic keeper John Perosh from 30 yards out before Aytec Genc missed what should have been the opener.

The 57th minute miss by Genc may have been the turning point of the match with a further chance to Bosevski going astray, with that series of misses typifying United's season.

"We played a good game for 60 minutes, after the penalty like every other game, they lose their confidence. After the second goal it destroyed us," United coach Ivan Petkovic said after the match.

"We came to play and pick up points and not play for anybody else but for us."

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

SOUTH MELBOURNE 4
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0

By Bert van Bedaf

In an emotion charged encounter for both South Melbourne and Newcastle, the outgoing champion farewelled its coach of four years, while the Breakers failed to gain a finals place, losing 4-0 to the home team at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday.

It was Ange Postceglou's last match as South Melbourne coach, having been appointed national youth coach to succeed Les Scheinflug last week.

South proved Newcastle's nemesis in the closing rounds. It won the away match 2-1 at the Breakers stadium in the previous round, which put Newcastle under extreme pressure to breathe life into its faltering season in Melbourne. It was the fourth time the two teams met this season, South won 2-0 in round 19 and drew 2-2 in round 16.

As far as South Melbourne was concerned, also failing to gain a finals berth was disappointing, but the match was played in celebration of outgoing Ange Postecoglou, who was carried off the ground on the players' shoulders after the final whistle.

"This is a special day for us, because we're farewelling our coach Ange Postecoglou. The club thanks him sincerely and wishes him well in his new job," South Melbourne president George Vasilopoulos said before the match.

Postecoglou could not have wished for a more convincing end to the season.

"I think we played pretty well today. We looked sharp and took some sharp chances. I could not have asked more from the players. It was a nice day for me. It was a great way to finish a disappointing year," Postecoglou said.

Newcastle coach Lee Sterrey could only look back on what could have been, saying failing to make the finals was "gut-wrenching".

"I would have liked to have squeezed into the top six somehow. We've improved from being in the cellar last season and I thought we belonged in the top six, the way we've played (during the season). This is a hard pill to swallow. But we have to learn from it and move on to the next level," Sterrey said.

South Melbourne was determined to give Postecoglou a rousing send-off and the Lakesiders took the lead after only four minutes with the first of four heartbreaking goals.

Goran Lozanovski took the corner kick. Vaughan Coveny flicked it on and John Anastasiadis headed it into the net past Newcastle 'keeper Bob Catlin.

Newcastle went into attack in the knowledge it needed to win, if it were to have any hope of making the finals. John Buonavoglia together with Andy Harper put the South defence and 'keeper Chris Jones under pressure but were unable to find the net.

Youngster Rade Culibrk, a starter for the first time in the South line-up, weaved his way through the Newcastle midfield only to aim wide, Lozanovski and Michael Curcija also had shots on goal, which Catlin saved.

Newcastle's first real chance materialised in the 35th minute, when Damien Smith fed Buonavoglia on the left. The forward crossed the ball to his far post, where an unmarked Todd McManus headed it on to the base of the other post before it was cleared.

South effectively killed off Newcastle's season with its second goal four minutes before half time. Vaughan Coveny put in a cross from the left, just outside the box, where Lozanovski crossed it in the path of Paul Trimboli.

The South captain needed the inside of the far post to hit the net for his 101st goal, but it did seal the match for the home team.

Ange Postecoglou: Fitting send-off.

Substitute Anthony Magnacca, on for Anastasiadis after 65 minutes, added South's third goal with 10 minutes remaining. Lozanovski released the young forward, who rounded a defender and fired home high into the net. He also hit the crossbar four minutes later.

Michael Curcija finally struck from close range in the 88th minute after several previous attempts to finish South's season on a high, while ending Newcastle's campaign on a low note in what had only a few weeks ago promised to be such a heady season for the disappointed Breakers.

ADELAIDE CITY 3
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1

By Allan Crisp

Adelaide City's belief that it has a divine right to contest the NSL finals on a perennial basis rose to the fore with this 11th hour victory over the fiercely determined Melbourne Knights.

The brassy Knights loomed as genuine party poppers after Olyroo squad striker Dragi Nastevski gave the visitors the lead in the 54th minute.

But, spurred by the biggest crowd (10,469) yet assembled at the revamped Hindmarsh stadium, the Force staged a typical late goal burst to ensure participation in their 11th successive finals campaign.

Nick Sabljak started the City recovery with a 77th minute equaliser before Matthew Kemp scorched home the goal that underlined predictions he should be acclaimed the NSL rookie of the season.

It then took a stoppage time strike from Damian Mori to ensure that treble championship winning Adelaide City was worthy of having yet another crack at achieving finals glory.

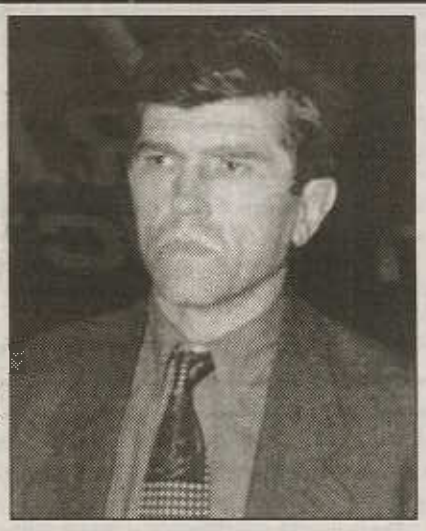
City coach Zoran Matic hailed the win as, "An escape from Alcatraz," as he heaped praise on his players. "This is the second time this season this team has put together five wins in a row.

"The players have been under a lot of mental pressure, but it proves that you have to have a purpose if you want to win."

Knights coach Vlado Vanis believes the big crowd motivated his team as well as boosting the home side. "We didn't come here to defend, but to do our best.

"Zoran has done it again (qualified for the finals) and I wish him all the best," Vanis said.

Melbourne issued a warning to City after just 63 seconds when Tony Pelikan chipped a 25-metre shot onto the top of Adrian Cagalj's crossbar.



Zoran Matic: Another finals campaign beckons.

Mori broke clear a minute later to shoot wide of the target before Alex Kiratzoglou blazed a piledriver that Cagalj saved at the second attempt.

A left wing cross from Sabljak found the head of Mori, who glanced the ball wide as City raided purposefully.

Mori and Carl Veart criss-crossed their way up field before Lupce Acevski gloved away a solid shot from Veart.

Dogged defensive methods replaced composure with the pressure mounting on the Force the longer the contest remained scoreless.

City faced its first regular season loss to the Knights in 14 years when Nastevski goaled to end a move which also employed the talents of Paul Urlovic and Pelikan to wrong-foot the City defence.

Sabljak performed his rescue act six minutes from full time when he collected a right wing pass from Kemp to power home from inside the box.

Then Cagalj delivered a long clearance from his goal area to Kemp, who flashed a piercing drive past Acevski.

A clever back heel from Claudio Pelosi found Mori, who slammed the ball between the goalkeeper's legs to notch his 22nd goal of the season.

While clearly pleased with the powerful comeback effort of his players, Matic found it necessary to apologise for his team's indifferent first-half performance.

"I'm sorry we didn't play well in the first half in front of this big crowd," Matic said.

Asked if City was capable of going all the way in the finals campaign, Matic said, "Provided we play well enough we will win. "On our day, we are equal to anyone in the competition."

CARLTON SC 2
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 1

By Bert van Bedaf

There is a touch of irony attached to Carlton's elimination final against Marconi over the next 10 days. It pits Stallions coach Eddie Krncevic against his former club, which he took to the grand final two seasons ago.

In his first season as coach Krncevic got the Blues in peak form, but they lost the grand final 2-1 to South Melbourne, beaten by a dubious Con Boutsianis goal after coming from behind.

Now Krncevic is taking his finals campaign to Melbourne's only surviving finals contestant, playing first at home on the weekend and the return bout on May 19 at Olympic Park.

Although his side just managed to finish in sixth place, Krncevic believes Marconi, who drew 1-1 with Canberra, is ready for the contest.

"Finals football is a different matter and Marconi has a great reputation in them," he said.

Carlton finished in third place after beating second placed Wollongong Wolves 2-1 at home in front of a paltry 1700 crowd.

Stuart Munro: The Carlton Coach's squad is hitting form at the right time.

Considering the Blues are holding up the pride of Victoria in the the opening goal. Colosimo produced a silky through-pass that Moreira slid past Wolves 'keeper Les Pogliacomi.

But wingback Ceccoli surprised Carlton 'keeper Dean Anastasiadis with a shot on the volley to level for the Wolves.

Carlton snatched victory after Pogliacomi had brought down Moreira in the box. Penalty expert Marth stepped up and drilled the winner home, giving Carlton a solid finals berth after it looked for a while that the faltering Blues were going to miss out.

But the Melbourne outfit has come good recently, hitting form at the right time, registering eight wins from the last 10 games. Carlton coach

Stuart Munro sounded quietly confident when assessing his team's prospects against the Stallions.

"We have beaten Marconi in Sydney and we should have beaten them at home as well. Finals football is completely different, but the important thing is we're going into the finals in good form," Munro said.

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos was also looking forward to his finals campaign, starting with the shoot-out against minor champion Perth Glory.

He left speculation regarding his coaching future, possibly at South Melbourne, to one side.

"The chances of my staying at Wollongong are good," he said.

Important is the finals outcome. If the Wolves win the title, the opportunity of playing in a FIFA World Club Championship would be an enormous incentive to stay.

"It is something I will consider. If we win the league, it would be silly of me not to expose myself to it," he said.

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NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

PERTH GLORY 1
NORTHERN SPIRIT 0

By Richard Kreider

Strains of the immortal hit "We are the champions" together with the boom of pyrotechnics echoed around a jubilant Perth Oval after Perth Glory defeated Northern Spirit 1-0 to secure the 1999/2000 National Soccer League minor-premiership.

A truly remarkable achievement for a club with such a short history. "Northern Spirit was a bloody tough side today and that's why we should be pleased of the result," said an elated Glory coach Bernd Stange.

What everyone at the ground didn't realise, until later, was Carlton had defeated second-placed Wollongong Wolves at Olympic Park so the honour was already going to be theirs.

"I have never forgotten what Gary Marocchi achieved before me, where he changed the team from amateur to semi-professional soccer," said Stange on his predecessor.

"But now, we are very close to becoming a fully-professional soccer club." he said, "I'd like to congratulate Bernd and Perth Glory, they were the model we've tried to follow over on the east side of Australia," said Spirit coach Graham Arnold who was keen to extract the positives from the festivities around him.

"I'm happy that we finished the season at Perth Oval watching the celebrations of a minor-championship side because I am hoping it will rub off on us next season," said the former Socceroo striker.

"Apart from David Seal, today is the first time I have been able to field my strongest team since we played Sydney United in the first round. I've had an horrendous time with injuries, every first team player has missed a minimum of eight or nine rounds of the league at one time or another," he said. "We played very well this afternoon and I thought we were unlucky not to come away with at least a point," said Arnold who will not be putting his feet up during the off-season, instead he will be doing a wide-ranging recruiting drive.

Regardless of what was at stake, Glory displayed very little sign of nervousness during the opening exchanges, that were mostly even. The Perth attack relied on the potent play of wing-backs Robert Trajkovski on the right and Scott Miller on the opposite flank, while the visitors utilised the pace and cunning of Robbie Slater, who was heckled by the Hill crowd every time he touched the ball, the energy of Matthew Bingley and diminutive Matthew Langdon who was always a threat along the left side.

Perth defender Jamie Harnwell is fast becoming renowned for his marking competence, his duel with the wily Slater was successful but not altogether commanding.

"I'd like to think I held him quite well but obviously a player like that is going to get past you sometimes and when he does he is going to do something dangerous," said Harnwell.

Perth forward Aurelio Schwertz was the first to find the net, albeit a 35th minute disallowed goal, when he drifted into an offside position after collecting a quality ball from his Brazilian counterpart Edgar Junior.

The home side however, made amends just three minutes later with a goal that seemed to have come from nothing. It started when Trajkovski chased what appeared to be a lost cause, but the speedy flank-runner somehow managed to reach and flick the ball goalwards just centimetres from the right-hand byline, before a Spirit defender could make a sliding interception.

The ever alert Harnwell was perfectly placed to climb high and head the ball past Paul Henderson for his second goal in as many weeks. "I thought it had actually gone out," said Harnwell on Trajkovski's chase for the ball. "Luckily I kept on running and managed to get on the end of what turned out to be a great cross," he said.

The second-half was barely 30 seconds old when Naven was put in a scoring position, but Paul Bilokapic was on hand to put in a timely challenge. Bobby Despotovski, who became a father last Friday, appears to be hitting form at the right time. He came perilously close to finding the net a minute later when his ground-strike from a Kasey Wehrman pass trickled agonisingly past the far upright.

Midway through the second-half was the best period for the Spirit side where they tried to capitalise on a period of hesitancy by their opponents. In the 50th minute, Slater tried his luck with a speculative 30-metre drive that was well gathered by Jason Petkovic who was attempting a third consecutive clean-sheet.

It then became party time as the final whistle sounded and not one person left the ground as they congratulated the entire Glory squad in the middle of the pitch where they received their well-earned award from NSL boss Stefan Kamasz who presented the impressive glass trophy to Stange and his skipper Naven, but not before telling the 13,553 crowd the Glory was the most professional club in Australia with arguably the best fans.

Meanwhile Graham Arnold thinks Perth Glory will be hard to beat for the championship.

"It's pretty hard to pick because this season has been so topsy-turvy, where everyone has beaten each other," he said.

"It will probably get down to who stays the fittest in the finals series, who has the most luck and the least injuries and who can handle the pressure the most. With Perth being there last year, it will benefit them a lot this time around. I know Subiaco Oval is not their home ground but having 40,000 plus crowd behind them will be like having an extra player," he ended.

Glory's Alistair Edwards, Ivan Ergic and Troy Halpin are all expected to be free of injury for the first finals clash with Wollongong in two weeks time.

PARRAMATTA POWER 1
AUCKLAND KINGZ 2

By John Economos

The Auckland Kingz last Sunday night brought down the curtain to their inaugural, yet most creditable, season in the NSL as they pulled off their 14th win, downing the Parramatta Power 1-2, and scoring the winner three minutes into stoppage time at the Parramatta Stadium.

The League's fledgling New Zealand Club by all accounts did marvellous with limited resources to end their initial campaign in the National League in eigth position, just five points out of the Top Six.

The Kingz drew first blood in the 25th minute when tough midfielder Ivan Vicelich clipped a ball out to the right to find his eager Chilean striker Aaron Silva. The pacey marksman veered into the box drawing the Power's goalie Barney Smith well off his line before calmly slotting his shot from an acute angle inside the far left hand upright.

The New Zealand midfield of Robbie Middleby, Harry Ngata and Vicelich, plus veteran striker Freddie de Jong who always dropped back to help, quickly shut down their counterparts in centre pitch denying the home side precious premium space to operate, let alone clean ball-service for strikers to penetrate.

The Power's playmaker Walter Ardone in the 32nd minute attempted to hit the target from 25 metres out, but his well-on-target drive was well taken up high, by Australian goalie on loan from Brisbane, Daniel Duke.

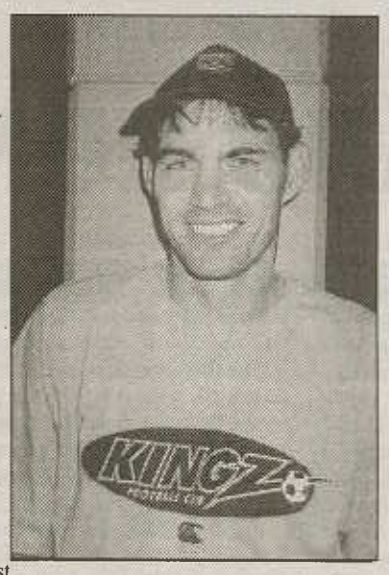
Two minutes later the Power's promoted teenaged midfielder Matt Thompson from almost point-blank range, skied over the horizontal whilst Jacob Burns' 35-metre rocket drive one minute before the break ricochetted off the cross-bar.

Twelve minutes into the second half the Kingz threatened to double their lead. Despite a powerful header by central defender Che Bunce that was goal-bound from a corner, the Power's halftime substitute and mobile Danny Townsend, did extremely well to kick the 'meteor' off the goal-line.

The Power's by now frustrated coach David Mitchell, in the 64th minute threw on experienced substitute striker Kimon Taliadoros. The move within two minutes yielded dividends for coach, player and team.

Following a well slung corner rifled in by Burns from the left, Taliadoros headed into the target the precious equaliser.

Now the Power in the last 20 minutes hungrily surged forward, employing three strikers in Townsend, Mile Sterjovski and Taliadoros, desparately seeking to hit the elusive winner.



Freddie de Jong: Auckland Kingz' 'Man of the Match'.

However, three minutes into stoppage time it was the Kiwi's that in fact hit the winner through 74th minute substitute John Lammers. A Kiwi corner that the Power failed to safely clear, enabled Vicelich to pop it back to Lammers who slammed a first-timed 'bomb' into the target that proved too hot for goalie Smith to hold.

Best performers for the Power were right midfielder Elrich, central midfielders Thompson and Ardone plus left back Steve Eagelton, whilst for the Auckland Kingz their veteran target man Freddie de Jong got through a heap of work repeatedly dropping deep into midfield to assist, plus central midfielders midfielders Vicelich and the side's skipper Ngata.

Giant blond central marker Che Bunce supplied the 'steel' throughout the match to the New Zealanders' 'back fence'.

A disappointed Parramatta Power coach David Mitchell later lamented: "This game summed up the season for us as we played well, created chances but didn't capitalise on them. I used some young players tonight and I was happy with all their performances, but not with the result.

"I feel we need more experience in the side and will be looking for such during the off season," Mitchell ended.

Meanwhile the Auckland Kingz' studious coach and Kiwi international legend Wynton Rufer, evaluated: "I thought we did well in the first half considering we were playing away and being at the end of the competition.

"However at halftime we must have fallen asleep whilst they (the Power) came out far more aggressive and got on top. We should have scored a couple of more goals but in the end we sneaked in a win," ended the former World Cup star.

ABSW PLAYER OF THE YEAR

ROUND 34

Sydney Olympic v Sydney United		**Canberra v Marconi Stallions**	
3-N. Carle	(SO)	3-B. Hamilton	(CC)
2-B. Emerton	(SO)	2-B. Maloney	(MS)
1-T. Pondeljak	(SU)	1-A. Clark	(CC)
Brisbane v Gippsland Falcons		**Adelaide v Melbourne Knights**	
3-S. Stefanutto	(BS)	3-M. Kemp	(AC)
2-B. Jevdjevic	(GF)	2-A. Tobin	(AC)
1-W. Srhoj	(BS)	1-A. Kovacevic	(MK)
Carlton v Wollongong Wolves		**Parramatta v Auckland**	
3-A. Marth	(C)	3-F. De Jong	(AK)
2-A. Ceccoli	(WW)	2-I. Vicelich	(AK)
1-S. Colosimo	(C)	1-A. Elrich	(PP)
South v Newcastle		**Perth Glory v Northern Spirit**	
3-M. Curcija	(SM)	3-J. Harnwell	(PG)
2-V. Coveny	(SM)	2-G. Naven	(PG)
1-T. McManus	(NB)	1-P. Bilokapic	(NS)

FINAL ROUND

1. D. Cervinski	(Wollongong)	36
2. A. Harper	(Newcastle	28
3. P. Cardozo	(Sydney Olympic)	28
4. J. Buonavoglia	(Newcastle)	27
5. A. Costanzo	(Adelaide City)	25
6. G. Naven	(Perth Glory)	23
7. M. Curcija	(South Melbourne)	23
8. A. Vidmar	(Adelaide City)	23
9. A. Marth	(Carlton SC)	22
10. M. Durakovic	(Gippsland Falcons)	20
11. L. Lapsansky	(Carlton SC)	19
12. S. Chipperfield	(Wollongong Wolves)	19
13. A. Cervinski	(Melbourne Knights)	19
14. C. Boutsianis	(Perth Glory)	18

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DIABETES AUSTRALIA Victoria

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★★ ROUND THIRTEEN WRAP ★★

By Bert van Bedaf

The Melbourne Raiders and Preston completed the previous round at Epping stadium last Monday night. The match ended with a comfortable win for the Lions, who also had a player sent off in the dying minutes. Preston beat the Raiders 3-1 in a scrappy performance.

A foul by David Della Rocca on Sasho Slaveski inside the box, prompted referee Jim Ouliaris to point to the spot and Pece Stojcevski converted the penalty for the opening goal.

Dimce Panev headed home Preston's second goal two minutes into time added-on from a well-directed Slaveski cross. Preston sealed the match in the 78th minute, when Joe Kozic struck through the Raiders defence for the third goal.

Preston's Anton Kovacic up-ended Jim Gacovski inside the box and Ouliaris again pointed to the spot. Nick Cuculeski converted the penalty. Ouliaris also sent Kovacic off, having committed his second bookable offence. He'd already received a yellow card before the break.

There could not be a sharper contrast between the two sides, when comparing their player fortunes. While Preston added former Melbourne Knights forward Ice Kutlesovski, the Raiders were missing at least half a dozen regulars.

Preston signed Kutlesovski from Green Gully last week, for a fee said to be $5,000. Preston coach Dragan Blazevski gave his new signing his first run on the hour.

Meanwhile, the Raiders played without captain George Slifkas (suspended), Zlatko Maglic (injured), Nick Lazarevski (injured), Klaus Bichler (injured) and John Lingurovski (suspended), among a long list of absentees.

"But that can't be an excuse," Raiders coach Chris Taylor said. "We still had a team out there. We're still competitive, but the players have lost the winning habit," he said.

Their 2-0 loss to Altona Magic last Saturday night will have put the bottom club in crisis mode.

Leader leader Green Gully is going through a poor patch at the moment, having lost several players. Kutlesovski now at Preston found himself playing against former team-mate Daniel Genovesi, who has joined Altona East. Zlatko Donev has left for Sydney and Steve Mangos is out for the rest of the season with a broken leg.

Oakleigh Cannons did well to keep St Albans to a 1-1 draw, halting a dangerous slide. Fawkner produced a similar result, keeping Bentleigh to a scoreless draw.

The league is on the home run with St Albans and Bentleigh Greens still leading the Green Gully chase. At the bottom, Port Melbourne and Melbourne Raiders are in relegation strife. But Heidelberg, Oakleigh and Fawkner are by no means safe.

LIONS HIT AND RUN

By George Koukeris

Preston jumped within a game of second place as it toppled Altona East 2-0 at home last Sunday.

The Lions have now won three matches and drawn two out of the last five to climb into fourth place.

In round two, the Phoenix had the better of Preston, beating the Lions 2-1 at Paisley Reserve. This time the Lions made sure of victory with two goals by new signing Ice Kutlesovski, who has transferred from Green Gully.

Dimce Panev delivered the through-pass from the right, giving Kutlesovski a one-on-one with East 'keeper Sam Frangos, who could not prevent the former Melbourne Knights forward from hitting the net.

Twenty minutes later, Kutlesovski nearly struck again with another solo-effort. The gifted striker rounded Ross Antoniadis to be again in front of Frangos. But this time his shot was off target, hitting the post before it was cleared.

Altona mounted several counter attacks, but Steven Barton, Nick Papadopoulos and Terry Antoniadis failed to produce the equaliser.

The Phoenix continued to pressure in the first half. Peter Groidis, Paul Donnelly and John Dimitrelos worked hard in midfield.

But in the 75th minute, Kutlesovski hammered home Preston's second goal from the spot. East defender Giovanni DeAmicis committed a late tackle on Panev, attempting a goal of his own.

Referee Cain Naumcevski fortunately showed DeAmicis a yellow card rather than red and awarded Preston a penalty, which Kutlesovski calmly converted.

The Phoenix continued to look dangerous, with at least five chances coming their way in the last 10 minutes, but the Lions stood their ground and refused to let the home win slip from their grasp.

Preston: Tsianakas, Ognenovski, Bosevski, Drogriski, Slaveski, Sapazovski, Kozic (Kara), Smirnis, Stojcevski (Malina), Panev, Kutlesovski.

Altona East: Frangos, Antoniadis, Valentic, DeAmicis, Troise (Genovesi), Dimitrelos, Donnelly, T. Antoniadis, Groidis (Novaceski), Papadopoulos (Davis), Bartol.

CLOUD HANGS OVER PORT

By Bert van Bedaf

Port Melbourne coach Peter Tsolakis declined to comment after the Sharks lost 3-1 at home to Bulleen last Saturday night as the club sank to second bottom on the VPL ladder and a cloud gathered over his future.

The Sharks slumped to their seventh defeat, four of them at home, without playing particularly poorly but nonetheless failing to convert and giving the opposition too much space in front of goal. Tsolakis put himself on with eight minutes left but he was unable to have an effect on the game.

Nick Tsaltas made the first run on goal after 17 minutes but his angled shot was palmed away by Bulleen 'keeper Jamie Cooper and cleared by defender Michael Mazzini. Cooper made life difficult for his former club by making several good saves.

At the other end, five minutes before the interval, Port 'keeper Tony Lyras pushed a Berkan Sakaci shot onto the post before it was defended for a corner, while George Tzirtis saved a Costa Caimakanis shot off the line a minute later.

Just on the stroke of half time, Bulleen struck. Frank Catalano took the corner and Paul Della Rocca flicked the ball into the net.

Tsaltas started the second half as brightly as the first with a shot that flew across goal. Mustafa Mustafa proved more accurate on the rebound from another Tsaltas attempt. Cooper parried his shot, but Mustafa was on the spot to hit home the equaliser.

Bulleen striker Danny Gnjidic, however, was left unmarked and allowed a free shot from the edge of the box, putting the Zebras back in the lead in the 76th minute.

Warren Spink, not sighted in the first half, produced a classy run, rounding three defenders and crossing it for Gnjidic to seal victory for Bulleen in the 84th minute, again from an unmarked position.

Bulleen coach Joe Mullen looked pleased, but remained restrained. "In terms of the result, it was a tremendous win, but we've played better," Mullen said.

"Tonight wasn't pretty. Both teams made mistakes. Only we made fewer mistakes. I was pleased with the players' commitment and endeavour. They got the result they deserved," he said.

Port Melbourne: Lyras, Sonsini, Palamaras, Watson, Pir (Vukasavljevic), Tzirtis, Pappas, Mustafa, Pontakidis (Tsolakis), Collina (Mihajlovic), Tsaltas.

Bulleen: Cooper, Tartaglia, Mazzini, Della Rocca, Thomas, Sakaci (Guglielmi), Emsovski, F. Catalano (Schwal), Caimakanis (L. Catalano), Spink, Gnjidic.

Victorian Soccer Federation *Eat Well Live Well*

PREMIER LEAGUE 2000

LEAGUE LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Green Gully Cavaliers	12*	9	1	2	26	9	28
St Albans Saints	13	6	4	3	24	15	22
Bentleigh Greens	13	6	4	3	20	13	22
Preston Lions	13	5	4	4	18	16	19
Altona Magic	13	5	4	4	15	15	19
Bulleen Zebras	13	5	3	5	20	21	18
Altona East Phoenix	13	5	3	5	14	19	18
Fawkner Blues	13	3	5	5	14	16	14
Oakleigh Cannons	13	3	5	5	19	26	14
Heidelberg United	12*	4	1	7	19	24	13
Port Melbourne Sharks	13	3	3	7	20	27	12
Melbourne Raiders	13	2	5	6	12	20	11

** Heidelberg v Greenn Gully, last Monday night, 9 May.*

Firsts Round 13:

Preston Lions 2 (Kutlesovski I 2) **Altona East Phoenix 0**

Fawkner Blues 0 Bentleigh Greens 0

Port Melb Sharks 1 (Mustafa M) **Bulleen Zebras 3** (Della Rocca P. Gnjidic D 2)

Heidelberg United v Green Gully Cavaliers (Monday night)

Altona Magic 2 (Todorovski Z, Angelovski J) **Melbourne Raiders 0**

Oakleigh Cannons 1 (o.g) **St. Albans Saints 1** (Dragicevic I)

ROUND 14 SENIORS:

Saturday, May 13
Altona Magic v Oakleigh (7pm)
Sunday, May 14
St Albans v Green Gully, Bulleen v Fawkner, Bentleigh v Preston (all 3pm)
Monday, May 15
Heidelberg United v Port Melbourne, Melbourne Raiders v Altona East (both 8.15pm).

RESERVES:

Saturday, May 13
Altona Magic v Oakleigh (5pm)
Sunday, May 14
St Albans v Green Gully, Bulleen v Fawkner, Bentleigh v Preston (all 1pm)
Monday, May 15
Heidelberg United v Port Melbourne, Melbourne Raiders v Altona East (both 6.15pm).

Leading Goalscorers

Name	Team	Goals
Alfonzo Opazo	Heidelberg	9
Danny Gnjidic	Bulleen	8
Saso Markovski	Bentleigh	8
Dimce Panev	Preston	7
Ike Alagiozidis	Oakleigh	6
Saso Becvinovski	Green Gully	6
Ice Kutlesovski	Preston	5

NSW Soccer Federation

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— ROUND 18 —

TIGERS SCRAPE TO VICTORY

Eastern Suburbs 0
Leichhardt Tigers 1

By Joe Russo

Leichhardt Tigers scraped a narrow away win over Eastern Suburbs and three more very valuable points in the NSW Super League.

Both sides had their fair share of chances, however, neither could capitalise.

The Tigers couldn't extend their lead and the home side couldn't draw, much to the anguish of both sets of supporters.

Steve Karavatakis: 100 goals.

Easts looked dangerous early on when Shepherd hit the post in the first minute with his header from a Segreto cross. However, the Tigers took the lead and scored what turned out to be the only goal of the game, thanks to their ever-present captain Karavatakis. For the Tigers' skipper, it was an easy finish to turn a cross by Tomasevic into the opposition's net.

In the second half both sides had their chances but neither could put the ball in the back of the net.

The best for the Tigers in the second half was undoubtedly Yane Talcevski, who on three occasions came close to scoring their second goal of the game. In the 59th and 81st minutes his shots finished just off target and in the 70th, he was denied by a very good diving save from Easts 'keeper Anastasiadis.

For the Tigers the three points are extremely valuable while for Easts they are merely playing out the season, given that they didn't even apply to be part of the restructured Summer Super League next season.

Leichhardt, with their narrow wins, are not going to cause the leading Super League teams such as Blacktown Demons and Bonnyrigg White Eagles any real headaches at finals time, unless some fine tuning is done in the next couple of weeks and their excellent early season form returns.

TOP SCORERS

PLAYER	CLUB	GOALS
M. Hagger	Blacktown	18
C. Luff	Bonnyrigg	16
S. Karavatakis	Leichhardt	16
J. Ghisso	Bonnyrigg	15
J. Aschner	Easts Subs	15
A. Anderson	Parramatta	14
M. Borg	Fairfield	12
J. Bakis	St George	11

ROUND 18 SUMMARY

Blacktown stand poised to wrest the lead from Bonnyrigg on the Super League ladder when they meet at the Serbian Centre next Saturday.

With the teams only one point apart before the start of the games just completed on the weekend, Blacktown saw their fixture against St George washed-out and had the added bonus of their traditional rivals suffering a shock 3-1 loss to Parramatta Eagles at Melita Stadium. Malcolm Meilak,

Anthony Mittiga and Adam Anderson all got themselves on the scoresheet for Parramatta while defender Sasha Utjesenovic added some respectability to the scoreline for Bonnyrigg.

At Henson Park, Jim Patikas' Canterbury Marrickville bounced back into form with a good win over Macarthur Rams, with Abbas Saad scoring a goal in each half to come out 2-0 winners. Canterbury Marrickville looked dangerous in front of goal throughout, and the win keeps them in touch with the top five, but needing to string a few consecutive wins together.

Central Coast also kept their finals chances alive by managing a draw against the lowly Penrith Panthers. Penrith twice led, and were twice clawed back in a game which they dominated but were unable to capitalise on.

Shane Knight scored the 87th minute life-saver for the Coasties in a welcome return after a long lay-off from injury.

Despite a slow start, Fairfield had another impressive victory - this week a 3-0 win at home against Bankstown.

George Zabetakis opened the scoring for the home side and Matthew Borg chimed in with two more, the second a superb drive from outside the box, to bring his personal goal tally to 12 for the season.

The win also keeps Fairfield's chances alive and, having missed out on Summer League starting in November this year, the Bulls have plenty to prove to the teams above them.

In the battle of the cellar dwellers, Sutherland Sharks and Manly Warringah played out a 1-1 draw at Seymour Shaw Park. Manly's best player on the night, Mark Beldham, gave his side the lead in the 63rd minute when he turned and shot past Dennes Olla.

As the clock wound down, it seemed that Beldham's strike had secured the points for Manly, but the never-say-die Sharks, led by hardworking midfielder Wayne Gibson, equalised with just three minutes of normal time remaining, with Con Paradisis banging home a penalty.

RESULTS

Central Coast Coasties 2 (P Ritchie 42m S Knight 87m) **Penrith Panthers 2** (D Hinton 16m C Ackerley 61m)

Sutherland Sharks 1 (C Paradisis 85m penalty) **Manly Warringah Dolphins 1** (M Beldham 63m),

Blacktown City Demons St George Saints Washed Out

Parramatta Eagles 3 (M Meilak 18m A Mittiga 21m A Anderson 50m) **Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1** (S Utjesenovic 42m)

Canterbury Marrickville Berries 2 (A Saad 14m/68m) **Macarthur Rams 0**

Fairfield Bulls 3 (G Zabetakis 14m M Borg 44/86m) **Bankstown City Lions 0**

Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0 Leichhardt Tigers 1 (S Karavatakis 20m).

UNDER 21: Central Coast Coasties 0 Penrith Panthers 1, Sutherland Sharks 0 Manly Warringah Dolphins 4, Blacktown City Demons St George Saints Washed Out, Parramatta Eagles 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4, Canterbury Marrickville Berries 1 Macarthur Rams 2, Fairfield Bulls 2 Bankstown City Lions 2, Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0 Leichhardt Tigers 2.

UNDER 18: Central Coast Coasties 1 Penrith Panthers 1, Sutherland Sharks 4 Manly Warringah Dolphins 1, Blacktown City Demons St George Saints Washed Out, Parramatta Eagles 3 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Canterbury Marrickville Berries 2 Macarthur Rams 0, Fairfield Bulls 2 Bankstown City Lions 1, Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0 Leichhardt Tigers 2.

See page 6 for all other results

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	18	13	0	5	51	32	19	39
Blacktown City Demons	17	12	2	3	49	15	34	38
Leichhardt Tigers	17	11	2	4	39	26	13	35
St George Saints	17	10	3	4	31	20	11	33
Parramatta Eagles	18	7	9	2	39	27	12	30
Central Coast Coasties	17	6	6	5	28	22	6	24
Fairfield Bulls	18	7	3	8	31	30	1	24
Canterbury Marrickville	18	8	0	10	27	40	-13	24
Bankstown City Lions	18	5	5	8	23	27	-4	20
Eastern Suburbs Wanderers	18	6	1	11	31	41	-10	19
Macarthur Rams	18	4	5	9	21	28	-7	17
Sutherland Sharks	18	4	3	11	21	44	-23	15
Penrith Panthers	17	4	3	10	18	41	-23	15
Manly Warringah Dolphins	17	2	6	9	18	34	-16	12

Grade U21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Central Coast Coasties	17	11	2	4	32	17	35
Blacktown City Demons	16	1-	4	2	39	19	34
Penrith Panthers	17	10	1	6	31	23	31
Leichhardt Tigers	16	9	3	4	35	21	30
Parramatta Eagles	18	7	4	7	25	24	25
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	18	6	5	7	31	27	23
Manly Warringah Dolphins	17	7	2	8	33	35	23
Eastern Suburbs	18	6	5	7	28	33	23
Macarthur Rams	18	7	2	9	25	33	23
St George Saints	17	3	5	9	22	50	14
Canterbury Marrickville	18	6	2	10	28	39	20
Sutherland Sharks	18	5	5	8	26	39	20
Fairfield Bulls	18	5	4	9	28	38	19
Bankstown City Lions	18	3	5	10	32	45	14

Grade U18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Eagles	18	13	2	3	53	22	41
Fairfield Bulls	18	13	1	4	36	20	40
Blacktown City Demons	16	10	5	1	31	12	35
Leichhardt Tigers	15	10	2	3	37	22	32
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	18	8	3	7	29	28	27
Central Coast Coasties	17	7	3	7	33	24	24
Penrith Panthers	17	5	8	4	30	22	23
Sutherland Sharks	18	6	5	7	27	24	23
Macarthur Rams	17	6	5	6	26	24	23
Bankstown City Lions	18	6	3	9	26	33	21
Eastern Subs Wanderers	18	4	5	9	24	45	17
St George Saints	17	3	5	9	22	50	14
Manly Warringah Dolphins	17	3	2	12	17	32	11
Canterbury Marrickville	18	1	3	14	13	46	6

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

Super League

Kick-off times – 3.00pm (1st Grade), 1.00pm (U21s), 11.00am (U18s) unless otherwise stated

SATURDAY 13 MAY 2000

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Blacktown City Demons
Serbian Centre
(3pm U18s, 5pm U21s, 7pm 1st Grade)

Macarthur Rams v Parramatta Eagles
Lynwood Park
(3pm U18s, 5pm U21s, 7pm 1st Grade)

SUNDAY 14 MAY 2000

St George Saints v Central Coast Coasties
St George Stadium

Leichhardt Tigers v Canterbury Marrickville Berries
Lambert Park

Sutherland Sharks v Penrith Panthers
Seymour Shaw Park

Manly Warringah Dolphins v Fairfield Bulls
Cromer Park

Bankstown City Lions v Eastern Suburbs Wanderers
Jensen Park

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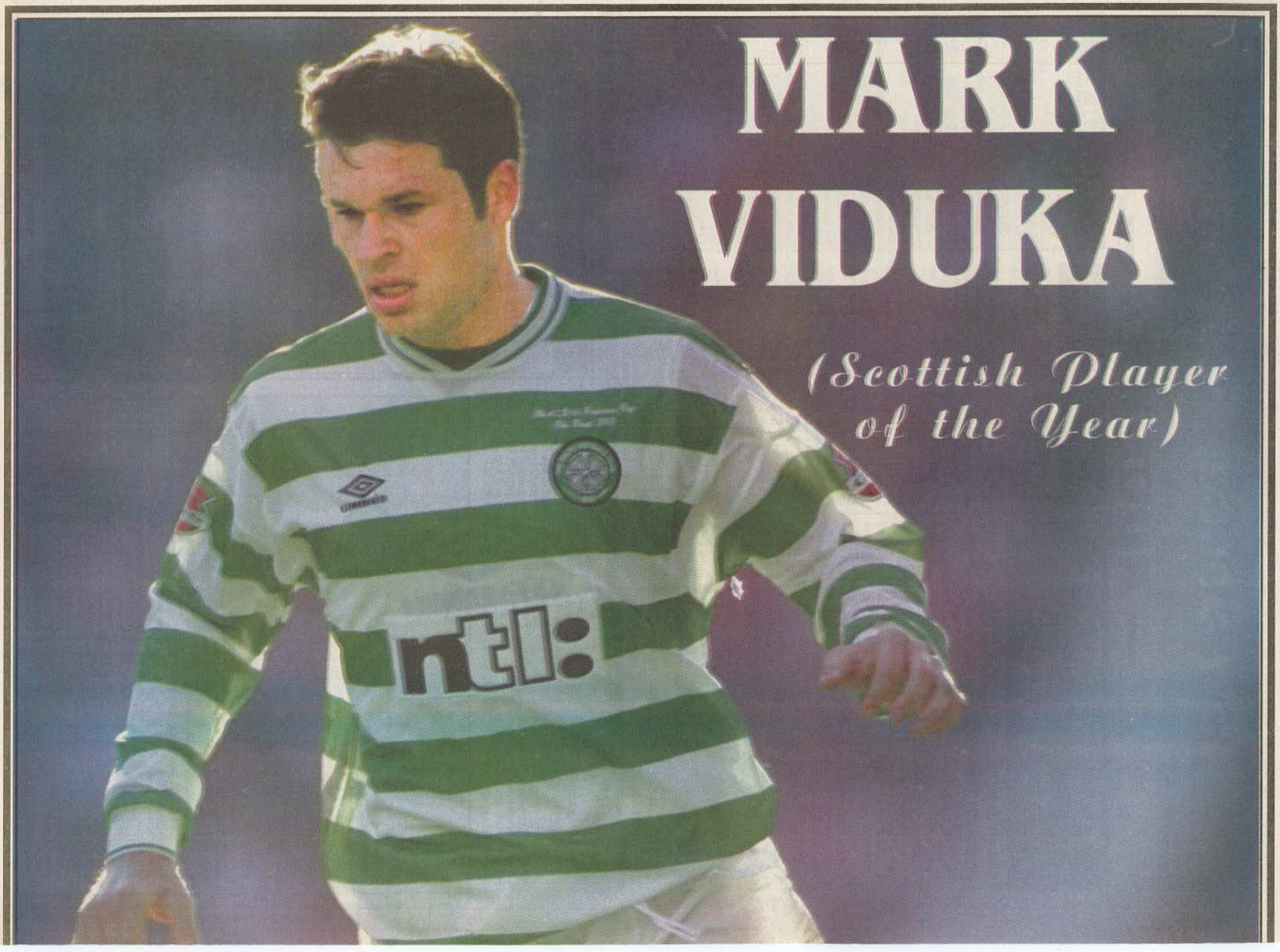
MARK
VIDUKA
(Scottish Player
of the Year)
ntl:

CRAIG MOORE

(Scottish Player of the Year — Runner-Up)

HARRY KEWELL

(English Young Player of the Year)

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH
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National Youth League 1999/2000

NORTHERN DIVISION (ROUND 34)

TUESDAY 2 MAY 2000 (Rd 25)

Newcastle Breakers Colts .....4 (Pryce 54 pen, Provost 56, Hughes 67, Blanning 90)
Sydney United Colts 1 (Orlovic17)

TUESDAY 2 MAY 2000 (Rd 27)

A.C.T.A.S. .....3 (D Aliffi 32, Ivanic 38, 65)
Wollongong Wolves .....2 (Masi 25, Aldridge 36)

WEDNESDAY 3 MAY 2000 (Rd 30)

Marconi Stallions 0
A.I.S. .....1 (Parisi 6)

WEDNESDAY 3 MAY 2000 (Rd 17)

Newcastle Breakers .....1 (Angievski 72)
N.S.W.I.S. .....1 (Biggins 15)

FRIDAY 5 MAY 2000 (Rd 24)

Marconi Stallions .....2 (Mondello 54, Last 86)
Newcastle Breakers .....3 (Angievski 27, 75, Mansley 67)

SATURDAY 6 MAY 2000

Wollongong Wolves Colts 0
Northern Spirit .....6 (Wearne 2, 84, Kane 46, og 59, Macrae 74, Brickel 85)

Sydney United Colts 0
Sydney Olympic Academy ...2 (Tirovski 32, 84)

SUNDAY 7 MAY 2000

Q.A.S. .....1 (Davani 55)
A.I.S. .....1 (Saric 69)

Parramatta Power .....4 (B Santalab 39, 62, Ahmedi 80, Plesa 90)
Northern Spirit Colts 0

Sydney Olympic .....3 (Doumanis 15 pen, Wilson 50, Macallister 86)
Sydney United 0

A.C.T.A.S. 0
Marconi Stallions .....2 (scorers unavailable)

Newcastle Breakers Colts .....3 (own goal 32, Blanning 52, Hughes 90)
N.S.W.I.S. .....2 (Stavroulakis 53, Hartge 84)

Marconi Stallions Colts 0
Wollongong Wolves .....1 (Dimech 52)

Bye - Newcastle Breakers.

LEAGUE LADDER

	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Power	32	25	4	2	3	100	22	79
Northern Spirit	32	23	4	2	5	98	39	73
Marconi Stallions	32	22	2	2	8	84	31	68
Sydney Olympic	32	20	6	2	6	93	45	66
Newcastle Breakers	32	20	4	1	8	70	37	64
A.I.S.	32	16	7	2	9	87	43	55
Q.A.S.	32	17	4	2	11	86	56	55
Wollongong Wolves	32	14	5	2	13	46	48	47
A.C.T.A.S.	32	11	9	2	12	49	59	42
Sydney United	32	13	3	2	16	46	61	42
Newcastle Breakers Colts	32	12	4	2	16	49	61	40
Sydney Olympic Academy	32	11	4	2	17	55	91	37
N.S.W.I.S.	32	9	8	2	15	49	53	35
Marconi Stallions Colts	32	7	5	2	20	43	97	26
Northern Spirit Colts	32	6	7	2	19	33	73	25
Sydney United Colts	32	4	5	2	23	31	84	17
Wollongong Wolves Colts	32	1	3	2	28	18	137	6

SUMMARY (RD 34)

Numerous postponed matches were played over the past week with some interesting results. The make-up of the final four remained a mystery right up until the final round.

Last Tuesday the Newcastle Breakers Colts recovered from a deficit at half time to defeat the Sydney United Colts at Breakers Stadium. The visitors led on 17 minutes as Paul Orlovic netted. The hosts came out firing in the second stanza and were rewarded with a penalty on 54 minutes. William Pryce converted to level the ledger. Two minutes later the Breakers took the lead when Alex Provost struck. On 67 minutes it was 3-1. Adam Hughes adding his name to the scoresheet. The match was sealed on full-time when Andrew Blanning collected the Breakers fourth.

Despite trailing twice the A.C.T.A.S. took the three points from the Wollongong Wolves. The Wolves took a 25th minute lead via an Esala Masi goal before Daniel Aliffi restored the equilibrium on 32 minutes. Daniel Aldridge put the Wolves ahead again after 36 minutes only to have his strike cancelled two minutes later by Paul Ivanic. Ivanic scored his second on 65 minutes to give the Academy a hard fought win.

The A.I.S. travelled to Marconi Stadium and dented the home side's aspirations of a top two finish thanks to a single goal from Franco Parisi. The sixth minute goal was Parisi's 16th of the campaign.

The Newcastle Breakers dropped two vital points at home against the N.S.W.I.S. on Wednesday night. A 15th minute strike from Matthew Biggins handed the Institute the advantage and it was not until the 72nd minute that the Breakers drew level. Robert Angievski scoring the equaliser.

The Breakers and the Stallions backed-up on Friday night at Marconi Stadium with both teams desperate for the points. The Stallions were hoping to sneak into second spot whilst the Breakers were struggling to secure a finals berth.

Newcastle gave themselves a chance of qualifying with a tough 3-2 victory. Robert Angievski scored a double for the victors and Chad Mansley chimed in with the other. In reply, Anthony Mondello and Grant Last recorded singles.

The Northern Spirit thumped the Wollongong Wolves Colts on Saturday as they prepare themselves for the finals series. The Spirit led after just two minutes via a Paul Wearne strike but struggled to add to their advantage in the first half.

However, five second-half goals ruined the Wolves chances of causing an upset. Goals to Derryk Kane, Todd Macrae, David Brickel, an own goal and a second to Wearne capped off a vintage second-half performance by the Spirit.

A brace from Sydney Olympic Academy youngster Sash Tirovski sunk the Sydney United Colts. A goal either side of the break was enough for the Olympians. The 2-0 win brought to an end an interesting season for the Academy and its first year coach George Paradisis.

On Sunday, the Q.A.S. and the A.I.S. played out a 1-1 draw. Alex Davani struck for the Q.A.S. after 55 minutes before Mislav Saric replied for the A.I.S.

Minor premiers Parramatta Power reached the magic 100 goal mark for the season as they defeated the Northern Spirit Colts. The 4-0 win caps off an amazing debut season for the Power.

Brendan Santalab's brace took his season tally to 17. Burim Ahmedi and Richard Plesa added singles.

At Belmore, Sydney Olympic clinched 4th place with a convincing 3-0 victory. Sydney United were no match for their desperate opponents. The win condemned the Newcastle Breakers to 5th place.

A 15th minute penalty from Anthony Doumanis gave Olympic a dream start. It was not until the second half that Olympic sealed the result. A 50th minute Lindsay Wilson strike was followed by a Dylan Macallister goal five minutes from time.

A 2-0 away win gave the Marconi Stallions a home final against Olympic. The A freakish own goal by goalkeeper Jacob Rex, and second-half goals to Andrew Blanning and Adam Hughes helped the Newcastle Breakers Colts overcome the N.S.W.I.S. at Breakers Stadium.

Nick Stavroulakis and Gavin Hartge scored for the Institute but the last minute strike to Hughes stole a 3-2 win for the Breakers.

A lone goal after 52 minutes from Paul Dimech gave the Wollongong Wolves maximum points from their battle against the Marconi Stallions Colts.

Congratulations to the Parramatta Power and their coach Paul McFadden on their fabulous debut season. Minor premiers of the National Youth League Northern Division. Also, a special mention for the league's top marksman Russell Miner of the Q.A.S. who ended the season with 25 goals. Miner's impressive performance saw him elevated to the NSL as part of the Brisbane Strikers squad.

The Preliminary Semi Final sees the Parramatta Power and the Northern Spirit do battle and the Marconi Stallions host Sydney Olympic in the Elimination Semi Final. Both matches will showcase the country's best young talent and all soccer fans present will be entertained by some great football.

FINALS SERIES

SATURDAY 13 MAY 2000

ELIMINATION SEMI FINAL

Marconi Stallions v Sydney Olympic (Marconi Stadium - 4.00pm)

SUNDAY 14 MAY 2000

PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL

Parramatta Power v Northern Spirit

(Venue and kick off time to be announced)

LEADING SCORERS

Russell Miner	Q.A.S.	25
Daniel Severino	Marconi Stallions	20
Robert Angievski	Newcastle Breakers Youth/Colts	18
Brendan Santalab	Parramatta Power	17
Ryan Griffiths	Northern Spirit	16
James Monie	Northern Spirit	16
Franco Parisi	A.I.S. (Sydney Olympic Academy)	16

SOUTHERN DIVISION (ROUND 22)

WEDNESDAY 3 MAY 2000 (Rd 4)

South Melbourne .....2 (Ian Callaghan, Elias Dimourtzidis)
Melb Knights Academy ....2 (Ivan Mioc 2)

ROUND 22

FRIDAY 5 MAY 2000

Melb Knights Academy .....4 (Hrvoje Matkovic, Frank Dumic, Ivan Mioc, Adrian Alamic)
Fawkner Blues .....3 (Carl Recchia 2, Robert Carchedi)

SATURDAY 6 MAY 2000

VIS 0
Carlton .....4 (Joshua Kennedy 2, Angelo Motsiopoulos, Marko Sintelli)

Albury Wodonga .....1 (Elliott Jones)
South Dandenong .....4 (Lirim Rasimi 2, Fitim Ibrahimi, Viktor Memeti)

SUNDAY 7 MAY 2000

South Melbourne .....3 (Jim Archimanditis 2, Wayne Spiteri)
Gippsland Falcons 0

Bulleen Inter .....1 (Romano Genesi)
Melbourne Knights .....1 (Mark Paleka)

Preston Lions v Bye

	P	W	D	D	F	A	Pts
Carlton	20	16	4	0	75	11	52
VIS	20	14	2	4	57	19	44
South Melbourne	20	12	3	5	55	21	39
Bulleen Inter Kings	20	10	3	7	48	35	33
South Dandenong	20	10	3	7	41	33	33
Melbourne Knights	20	9	4	7	51	43	31
Gippsland Falcons	20	8	4	8	41	43	28
Melbourne Knights Academy	20	6	3	11	25	39	21
Fawkner Blues	20	4	3	13	24	57	15
Albury Wodonga	20	3	3	14	23	68	12
Preston Lions	20	1	2	17	16	87	5

PLAY OFF FIXTURES

Venues, dates and times to be arranged

Qualifying semi-final

Carlton v VIS

Elimination semi-final

South Melbourne v Bulleen

By Roy Hay

In the match to decide the last place in the play-offs Melbourne Knights and Bulleen drew 1-1 at the Veneto Club, which was just enough to give Bulleen the vital spot on goal difference from South Dandenong.

The Knights scored first through Mark Paleka after half and hour and seemed to be in control, but Bulleen hit back just before the interval with a goal by Romano Ginesi. The second half was a slog as both sides tried to gain a decisive advantage, but in the end Bulleen just did enough to hold on for the vital draw.

Carlton hammered a young VIS team by 4-0 to confirm the

Blues minor premiership and demonstrate that it will be the team to beat in the play-offs. Two goals by Joshua Kennedy and singles by Angelo Motsiopoulos and Marko Sintelli saw the Blues home.

Melbourne Knights Academy finished off its season with two excellent results. On Wednesday it drew 2-2 with South Melbourne in a postponed Round 4 match, a score which was enough to secure South Melbourne's hold on third spot on the ladder and qualification for the play-offs. Ian Callaghan and Elias Dimourtzidis, with his 15th of the season in Northern and Southern Divisions, scored for the Blues, while Ivan Mioc scored a double for the Academy.

On Friday the Academy came back from 3-1 down at the interval

to snatch victory over Fawkner Blues in the last minute with a goal by Ivan Mioc, completing a brilliant week for the young striker. Earlier Hrvoje Matkovic scored in 12 minutes but Fawkner dominated the first half with two goals by Carl Recchia and one by Robert Carchedi. When Carchedi, who had been the outstanding player on the field to that point, was sent off, the complexion of the game changed.

The fightback began after defender Frank Dumic got his first goal of the season in 71 minutes, followed by the equaliser by Adrian Alamic in 76 minutes.

Alamic has missed most of the season with injury, so this was a fine

contribution by him which set up the grandstand finish in which Mioc snatched the victory for the Academy. By this stage Fawkner was down to nine men after Paul Butera was injured and had to leave the field, but everyone agreed it was a stunning fight back by the Academy.

South Dandenong did its best to fight its way into the play-offs with a 4-1 away win over Albury Wodonga. Playing four men up front

was coach Goran Runje's way of showing he meant business, but the

Warriors might have taken an early lead when Carl Mills dallied on the ball with only the keeper to beat. Viktor Memeti and skipped Lirim Rasimi got South Dandenong on its way with goals in 15 and 19 minutes, then a deflected shot made it three in 53 minutes.

When the visitor had a player sent off the Warriors mounted a series of spirited attacks but were caught on the break by Fitim Ibrahimi for a fourth goal for South Dandenong. At last the Warriors got some reward for its pressure when Elliott Jones lobbed the ball over the keeper, and then Sam Chambers saved a penalty with a fine dive to his right.

Had that gone in, then South Dandenong would have been in with a shout of the play-offs, but it was not to be.

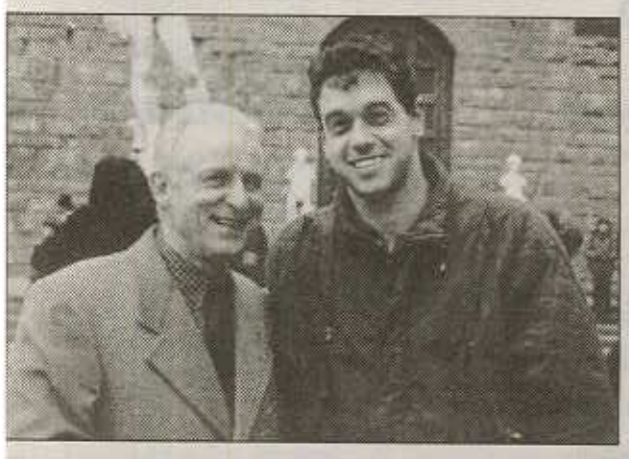
Finally South Melbourne beat Gippsland Falcons 3-0. It was a pretty straightforward affair with Wayne Spiteri putting away a penalty kick for South Melbourne and two goals by Jim Archimanditis.

Coach John Kennedy was pleased with the way his youth team performed and the Blues can't wait for the finals to start.

LEADING SCORERS

Antony Pelikan	Melbourne Knights	19
Elias Dimourtzidis	South Melbourne/AIS	15
Peter Kakos	Gippsland Falcons	11
David Martin	Albury Wodonga	11
David Terek	VIS	11
Angelo Motsiopoulos	Carlton	10

FAMOUS PHOTOS



ABOVE: *Youngster Miguel Fernando met three of his heros on a recent trip to Portugal over December 1997 and January 1998. He is pictured with Marco Aurelio (left) of Sporting Lisbon at the time but now playing in Italy's Serie A, Pedro Barbosa (centre), who was the Sporting Captain at the time and Oceano (right) — former Portuguese international.*
Good job Miguel — who is currently playing for Marconi Stallions U/16s.

LEFT: *World famous coach Giovanni Trapattoni had the distinct honour of being photographed with ABSW's very own Italian correspondent Joe Russo.*
The photo was taken at the "Piazza Della Signora" in Florence.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA PREMIER LEAGUE

RED DEVILS TURN THE TABLES ON BLUE EAGLES

By Allan Crisp

Campbelltown Red Devils sent Blue Eagles crashing to their second defeat of the season with a 2-0 success at Newton Sports Field.

It was sweet revenge for Campbelltown, which was thrashed 0-4 by the Eagles in the league opener in February.

Saturday's devilish success, coupled with Croydon King's 3-1 victory over White City Woodville enabled the regal Kings to edge within a point of the front running Blues as the second half of the campaign swept into action.

Round 12 also saw movement of a different kind as players swapped clubs on the virtual night before kick-off when plenty was stirring, especially the coaches.

Former Adelaide City hotshot, Brad Armour was the most notable player to change camps, switching from Cumberland to White City Woodville, the club with which he starred to win the Player of The Year award in 1992.

Fiercely competitive Armour celebrated his return to the Warriors with a goal, but could not prevent a loss against Phil Scardigno's side.

Another ex-Adelaide City midfielder, Mark Brazzale, who doubled his NSL career by also playing for West Adelaide, vacated the Raiders club to join Elizabeth Rams.

However, Brazzale started on a winning note, guiding the Rams to a tough, brusing 2-1 win over league cellar dwellers, Metro Stars.

Brazzale, along with Frank Blazevic, who transferred from Port Pirie City, were outstanding for the Rams, who also signed 15-year-old Terry Smith from the SA Sports Institute squad.

Elizabeth swarmed to a 2-0 lead with goals from Sam Farncombe and substitute Wade Mango, but a penalty awarded, when State team captain Paul Simmons was floored, changed the complexion of the match.

Jason Pedron converted the spot-kick to spark a rousing finish from Metro, but the new-look Elizabeth survived to grab the points and leave the stars stranded at the bottom of the barrel.

Modbury made the most of its long stretch of home games routine by downing Adelaide Zebras 3-1 at Golden Grove where Jason Trimboli snared a brace, with top defender Mark Yates netting from a much practiced set-piece play.

Australian Under-17 international Lucas Pantelis replied for the Zebras, but the Jets continued their meteoric rise up the table.

Reigning champion Cumberland went down to Port Lion Pirates 0-1, to record its eighth loss from 12 outings and change Foxes coach David Leane's thoughts from another finals thrust to the dig deep mythology concerning the avoidance of relegation.

Raiders clattered home two first-half goals to establish a lead which was sufficient to lower Birkalla's hopes of success, ambitions that diminished after the red carding of speedy striker Joe Richichi.

Premier League Results

Modbury Jets 3 (Trimboli 2, Yates) **Adelaide Zebras 1** (Pantelis). **Best** — Modbury: Trimboli, Marwe, Dobson; Zebras: Cecere, Childs, Rees.

Campbelltown Red Devils 2 (Perre, Beltrame, pen) **Blue Eagles 0. Best** — Red Devils: Panagopoulos, Beltrame, M. Menechella; Blue Eagles: Cutillo, Brooks, Zito.

Raiders 2 (Georgiou, Bralic) **Birkalla 0. Best** — Raiders: Bralic, Morrison, Mignone; Birkalla: DeLorenzo, Plummer, Kolar.

White City 1 (Armour) **Croydon Kings 3** (J. Porter, Piotrowski, Deptula) **Best** — White City: Plunkett, S. Dacic, Armour; Croydon Kings: J. Christison, Tosh, Piotrowski.

Cumberland Foxes 0 Port Lion Pirates 1 (DeGiovianello). **Best** — Cumberland: Savage, Patterson, Iandiorio; Port Lion Pirates: Misailidis, DeGiovianello, Martin.

Metro Stars 1 (Pedron, pen) **Elizabeth Rams 2** (Farncombe, Mango) **Best** — Metro Stars: Sabatino, Scalzi, Simmons; Elizabeth: Brazzale, Gillard, Westervelt.

State League Results

Panthers 0, Para Hills 4; Northern Demons 0, Enfield Falcons 0; Salisbury Apaches 2, Port Pirie City 0; Noarlunga Bulldogs 1, Western Strikers 3; Hills 0; Olympic FC 1; Cobras 2, Seaford Surfers 0.

Round 13 — Premier League Saturday, May 13

Elizabeth City v Campbelltown red Devils; Blue Eagles v Cumberland Foxes; Port Lion Pirates v White City Woodville; Croydon Kings v Raides; Birkalla v Modbury Jets; Adelaide Zebras v Metro Stars.

Round 13 — State League

Parra Hills Knights v Northern Demons; Enfield Falcons v Seaford Surfers; Cobras v Hills; Olympic v Western Strikers; Noarlunga Bulldogs v Salisbury Apaches; Port Pirie City v Panthers.

SA PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Adelaide Blue Eagles	12	9	1	2	34	9	28
Croydon Kings	12	9	0	3	33	14	27
Modbury	12	9	0	3	18	13	27
Port Adelaide Lion	12	7	1	4	22	14	22
Campbelltown City	12	6	1	5	18	21	19
Elizabeth City	12	5	2	5	22	20	17
Raiders	12	5	0	7	17	18	15
Adelaide City	12	4	2	6	18	21	14
White City Warriors	12	4	1	7	8	16	13
Cumberland United	12	3	1	8	11	23	10
W.T. Birkalla	12	2	3	7	12	28	9
Metro Stars	12	2	2	8	13	29	8

SOCCER WOMAN

By Janene Mar

AUSTRALIA HOSTS WORLD'S BEST

The First Pacific Cup presents the next major assignment for our own Matildas, and heralds the return to our shores of the world's absolute best in World Cup and Olympic champions USA, and world number two China.

The six-nation tournament, commencing at the end of the month, is the biggest international event ever to be staged in Australia.

The field also includes Canada and Japan, both combatants at last year's World Cup, plus Australia's oldest rival New Zealand.

Whilst the field brings together three sets of traditional neighbouring rivals in Canada and USA, China and Japan, and Australia and New Zealand, the major highlights promise to come between the three Olympic qualified nations Australia, USA and China.

The Pacific Cup was an idea conceptualised by Australia, hence our staging of the inaugural event. The Pacific Cup is an alliance of five countries — Australia, Canada, China, Japan and the US — who will each take turns at hosting the event which will be held every two years. New Zealand on this occasion is the invited nation.

The Cup this year fits perfectly into our schedule leading up to our own Olympic Games, as well as ensuring in the future that our Matildas, isolated by geographical distance from the rest of the football world, have regular highest quality competition. Every second staging of the event will also provide a big name tournament in the non-Olympic and non-World Cup year.

Originally planned as an eight nation tournament, organisation of the event has been heavily set back by the late withdrawal of third-ranked Brazil and emerging Europeans Scotland, both unable to make the trip due to a lack of finances.

A round-robin format will be utilised, each team ensured of five quality matches in Canberra, Sydney and Newcastle.

The Matildas play their opener at 'home' in Canberra's Bruce Stadium, the same venue where they will literally kick off the 2000 Olympics as the very first event of the Games.

Next stop is the Sydney Football Stadium, the Australian Team's other Olympic venue. The Pacific Cup then takes the game to Campbelltown, one of the fastest growing areas in Sydney's far south-west reaches.

Heather Garriock

Hopeful of making the 18-member team and playing in front of her home town is Campbelltown girl Heather Garriock.

Newcastle plays host to the last two rounds, a regional centre which has produced more than its fair share of Australian representatives over the years, including five of the current crop of Matildas.

Busting to get stuck into some long-awaited international competition are the Matildas, frustrated by their relative lack of matches, whilst the likes of USA and China seem to be racking up more and more matches every few weeks.

The forced cancellation of the Nigerian test series certainly left an even bigger hole for the home team whose last internationals were that of the Australia Cup back in January.

Unlike the Australia Cup, major drawcard USA are certain to be bringing their best lineup, the contractual negotiations between the 1999 World Cup players and the federation long sorted, and so close now to the Olympics.

The Aussie public can therefore look forward to witnessing the likes of Mia Hamm, Kristine Lilly, and Brandi Chastain, China's Sun Wen, and of course the Matildas to whet the appetite for what's in store come September.

FIRST PACIFIC CUP

ROUND ONE CANBERRA

Wednesday 31 May 2000
AIS Athletics Arena

2.00pm Canada v New Zealand

Bruce Stadium
5.00pm USA v China
7.30pm Australia v Japan

ROUND TWO SYDNEY

Friday 2 June 2000
Sydney Football Stadium

3.00pm Japan v New Zealand
5.30pm USA v Canada
8.00pm Australia v China

ROUND THREE CAMPBELLTOWN

Sunday 4 June 2000
Campbelltown Sports Stadium

12.00noon Japan v China
2.30pm USA v New Zealand
5.00pm Australia v Canada

ROUND FOUR NEWCASTLE

Wednesday 7 June 2000
Hunter Athletics Centre

3.00pm Australia v New Zealand

Thursday 8 June 2000
Breakers Stadium

3.30pm China v Canada
6.00pm USA v Japan

ROUND FIVE NEWCASTLE

Saturday 10 June 2000
Hunter Athletics Centre

12.00noon Canada v Japan
2.30pm China v New Zealand

Sunday 11 June 2000
Breakers Stadium

2.30pm Australia v USA

CUP TICKETS
All tickets are General Admission.
Adults $10; Concession $5.
Tickets are available through Ticketek or match venues

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OLYMPIC SELECTIONS FOLLOW PACIFIC CUP HIGHLIGHT MATCH

The big date has been confirmed. The announcement by the Australian Olympic Committee of the 18-member Australian Women's Football Team for the 2000 Olympic Games will be made on Sunday 18 June, exactly one week after the Matildas' clash with USA, the feature match of the Pacific Cup.

The Olympic selection date places that much more significance on the Matildas' collective and individual performance at the Pacific Cup, the last make-or-break opportunity to stake a claim to the most coveted berth in sport.

Of course, with such a long run since their last tournament, performance on the international arena is certainly not the only measure.

Each of the 24 Matildas is under the microscope during every single training session and practice match, six days a week.

Then again, nothing can replicate the actual pressures and conditions of international competition, and it's on the world stage that everything must come together.

Chris Tanzey: Olympic team announced May 26.

The pressure is certainly on, and grows as each day ticks away. The competition is certainly fierce with each of the 24 Matildas in with an equal chance.

Every one of the players has done the hard yards and made the sacrifices, and whether they have been there for the almost two years since the AIS program commenced, made a comeback after an absence, or come in as a recent new player, the terms are the same.

As well as the obvious joy, there is guaranteed to be also the worst of heartbreak for others. Training together every day and living constantly in such close proximity, it will be a difficult time which will really involve the entire squad.

The Olympic selection also makes the selection of the 18 to contest the Pacific Cup that much more vital an announcement. National Coach Chris Tanzey will name the Cup team on 26 May.

As is the arrangement for all Olympic sports, the Olympic Team will be named on that Sunday's edition of Channel 7's Sportsworld.

QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION

"Perry Park" Abbotsford Road, Mayne Brisbane 4006.

Phone: (07) 3252 5327 • Fax: (07) 3252 1137

XXXX LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	GF	AG	Pts
Brisbane City	12	9	2	1	28	8	29
Brisbane Lions	12	6	4	2	22	11	22
Rochedale Rov	12	6	1	4	24	18	22
Wynnum	12	6	3	3	23	15	21
Gold Coast City	12	5	3	4	19	12	18
IPSW Knights	13	5	1	7	19	19	16
B'berg Waves	13	3	4	6	10	21	12
Toowoomba Utd	12	2	4	6	12	21	10
Taringa Rovers	12	2	4	6	12	24	10
Mt Gravatt	12	2	2	8	16	36	8

ROUND 12 COMPLETED

Taringa Rovers .....3 Mt Gravatt 2
Wynnum .....1 Brisbane Lions 2
Gold Coast City .....1 B'berg Waves 0
IPSW Knights .....2 Toowoomba Utd 3
Brisbane City .....3 Rochedale Rov 1

ROUND 13

B'berg Waves .....0 IPSW Knights 0

DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	GF	AG	Pts
Eastern Suburbs	11	9	2	0	30	9	29
Olympic Utd	10	6	1	3	26	18	19
Rocklea Utd	11	5	2	4	27	16	17
Capalaba	9	5	2	2	16	12	17
Acacia Ridge	11	4	4	3	25	18	16
Souths Utd	10	3	5	2	23	9	14
Slacks Creek	11	2	3	6	12	27	9
Redlands Utd	10	2	1	7	17	24	7
Beenleigh	11	1	0	10	13	56	3

ROUND 12

Eastern Subs .....2 Slacks Creek 0
Souths Utd .....0 Acacia Ridge 0
Beenleigh .....1 Rocklea Utd 9
Olympic Utd v Capalaba (Played Monday night)
Redlands Utd - Bye

DIVISION ONE NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Star	11	8	0	3	28	11	24
Mitchelton	11	7	1	3	25	17	22
Pine Rivers Utd	10	7	1	2	20	12	22
Uni of Qld	9	7	0	2	29	14	21
North Pine	11	5	0	6	17	18	15
Newmarket	11	3	5	3	21	20	14
The Gap	11	4	0	7	14	22	12
Albany Creek	10	1	2	7	14	30	5
Grange Thistle	10	0	1	9	4	28	1

ROUND 12

North Pine .....1 Mitchelton 2
The Gap .....0 North Star 2
Newmarket .....3 Grange Thistle 1
Uni of Qld v Albany Creek (Played Monday night)
Pine Rivers Utd - Bye

CITY SECURE HALF-WAY LEAD

While Ipswich Crash To Cellar-Dwellers

By Glenn Davis

With almost half of the Queensland Premier League season over, Brisbane City hold a commanding seven-point lead at the top of the table over nearest rivals Brisbane Lions and Rochedale Rovers.

It's a position Brisbane City has been in before only to slip up in the second half of the season in past years.

However, many are tipping Brisbane City won't choke under the guidance of rookie coach Danny Wright, especially after they inflicted a 5-1 thrashing over Rochedale in their last encounter on the Labour Day public holiday in Queensland.

Glen Kolpak: Impressed in his first game for Bundaberg.

Brisbane City's win eased many of Wright's concerns after watching his side struggle to score in recent weeks.

Brisbane City had scored only once in its two previous draws while Rochedale went into the game with five wins on the trot.

City's goals were shared among five players, Vedran Becirbegovic, Nathan Carlos, Damien Waugh, Aaron Alridge and Allan Cameron.

In the other holiday Monday clash, Ipswich Knights suffered yet another defeat going down 3-2 to Toowoomba Raiders to complete the long weekend of fixtures.

No matches were scheduled in Brisbane last weekend although Bundaberg Waves had their next round fixture against Ipswich brought forward as it has eight players away on representative duties next week.

Unfortunately Ipswich maintained their recent poor run slogging out a scoreless draw with Bundaberg.

Bundaberg coach Tony Walmsley said his side was unlucky not to come away with all three points in a scrappy match.

"We had most of the play and at times we played some good football but we just couldn't score," he said.

"There weren't many scoring chances from either side but the ones we had were over the bar and neither keeper was really tested."

Former State striker Glen Kolpak, who spent the season with Canberra Cosmos in the national league, impressed Walmsley in his first game for the club.

"Glen got a lot of attention which was to be expected but he held the ball up well and did a reasonable job," Walmsley said.

"We're still negotiating with Robbie Hooker from Canberra but I'm hoping he'll be right to play Brisbane Lions in our next game in a fortnight."

Bundaberg also are currently talking with Canberra midfielder Andrew Clark, who has scored in Canberra's last three games, about a possible stint in Queensland.

Tony Walmsley: Unlucky not to come away with the points.

Meanwhile Brisbane Lions striker Sasha Radulovic wants to play in the national league next season whether it is with the Brisbane Strikers or another club.

Radulovic, who has scored nine times this season already, has formed a lethal partnership up front with former Brisbane City striker Royce Brownlie who between them have scored 15 of Brisbane Lions 22 goals this season.

The 21-year-old Bosnian wants to score as many goals as possible for Brisbane Lions to help them peg back Brisbane City's premiership lead before hopefully gaining a national league contract.

"I want to score as many goals as I can because I want to play in the national league next year," Radulovic said.

"I don't know who I will be playing for but I just want the chance to go up."

Radulovic played in the German fourth division before moving to Australia and hasn't ruled out returning to Europe one day.

"I should have moved up to the third division which is half professional, but we came to Australia instead," he said.

"Maybe one day I'll go back to Europe, in a few years, but for now I want to play in the national league."

ROUND 13 FIXTURES

May 13
Mt Gravatt v Brisbane City
7.00pm

Rochedale Rov v Wynnum
7.00pm

May 14
Toowoomba Utd v Taringa Rovers 4.00pm

Brisbane Lions v Gold Coast
4.00pm

WORLD

ITALIAN SERIE A

BOLOGNA 2 LAZIO 3

Lazio kept their title hopes alive with a convincing win at Bologna. A first-half goal by Sergio Conceicao and two second-half strikes by Diego Simeone and Marcelo Salas gave Lazio the victory.

Ex-Lazio forward Giuseppe Signori scored twice for Bologna, giving his former team mates a scare. Lazio are now two points behind league leaders Juventus with one match left.

The match marked the end of Bologna and ex-Italy international midfielder Giancarlo Marocchi's 18-year career.

INTER MILAN 0 FIORENTINA 4

Inter Milan suffered the biggest home defeat in their 92-year history but clung on to fourth place in the table, with the top four qualifying for next season's Champions League.

Enrico Chiesa scored twice and Gabriel Batistuta and Mauro Bressan once each.

Eighth-placed Fiorentina are also in the hunt for a spot in Europe. Manager Giovanni Trapattoni said: "Hopefully we will reach our last and only objective left in the season, the UEFA Cup."

JUVENTUS 1 PARMA 0

A nicely angled header by Alessandro Del Piero gave Juventus a 1-0 victory over Parma in front of 55,000 at the Stadio Delle Alpi.

Juventus remain two points ahead of second-placed Lazio, with just one match left. A late second half strike by Parma's Fabio Cannavaro was disallowed for a foul in the box.

"If the referee blew the whistle he must have seen something." Juventus coach Carlo Ancelotti said.

LECCE 2 TORINO 1

Two goals by Lecce's David Sesa and Alessandro Conticchio were enough to relegate Torino.

Alessandro del Piero: His header secured victory for Juventus over Parma.

Juventus' Edgar Davids rides a tackle from Parma's Colombian Bolano.

Marco Ferrante levelled the score with a penalty, giving Torino hope.

But, along with Conticchio's right-foot shot from the edge of the box, came Bari's win at Venezia, relegating Torino for the fourth time in their history.

PIACENZA 1 CAGLIARI 1

Honduran forward David Suazo's goal, his first in Serie A, gave Cagliari the lead in the eighth minute only for an own goal by defender Matteo Villa to give Piacenza a deserved equaliser eight minutes later.

Only 4,000 fans witnessed a match between two sides already relegated and preparing for next season.

REGGINA 1 VERONA 1

Verona took their unbeaten streak to 14 games as Fabrizio Cammarata's overhead goal, his third in two matches, secured a draw at Reggio Calabria.

A first-half goal by Albanian forward Eryon Bogdani had given Reggina the lead before Cammarata's spectacular second-half strike.

AS ROMA 1 AC MILAN 1

A late equaliser from the penalty spot by Serie A's leading goalscorer Andriy Shevchenko gave AC Milan a draw at AS Roma in front of 64,000 fans at the Olympic Stadium.

The highly disputed penalty dented Roma's hopes of a Champions League spot.

"This penalty kick ruined not only the game but our whole season," coach Fabio Capello said.

With one match left, Milan are third with 58 points and Roma sixth with 53.

UDINESE 2 PERUGIA 1

A second-half goal by reserve forward Massimo Margiotta gave Udinese a much needed 2-1 victory in their bid to qualify for the UEFA Cup for the fourth time in succession.

Brazilian forward Warley opened the scoring for Udinese in the 38th minute but two minutes later Nicola Amoruso equalised.

Udinese are seventh in the table , two points ahead of eighth-placed Fiorentina, in the chase for a UEFA Cup spot.

VENEZIA 0 BARI 1

Duccio Innocenti's goal in the 79th minute gave Bari victory at already relegated Venezia and ensured they would stay in the top flight for another season.

This, Bari's first victory at Venezia in 42 years, coupled with Torino's loss at Lecce, mathematically assured Bari of staying in Serie A for a fourth consecutive season.

Diego Simeone: Celebrates his second-half goal against Bologna. Lazio won 3-2.

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

Nevio Scala some five years ago was mentioned as a possible coach of Italy but times have certainly changed since then.

Scala was the inaugural coach of Parma when they first entered the Serie A in 1990/91. He remained at the club for their first six years in Serie A, before being replaced by current Juventus mentor Carlo Ancelotti.

Scala then had a season at Perugia followed by a season in Germany at Borussia Dortmund. Last week he signed a two-year contract at Besiktas Istanbul in Turkey.

Scala has been 'unemployed' in the coaching ranks for a couple of years now, which is even more surprising given his excellent track record.

At Parma is where Scala had most of his success. In his six years there, the team always finished between third and seventh place on the Serie A ladder, won an Italian Cup (1992), a Cup Winner's Cup (1993), European Super Cup (1994) and the UEFA Cup (1995). Not bad indeed!

The reason Scala finally parted company with the club and its owners - the Tanzi family (owners of the giant Italian dairy company Parmalat), was the failure to gain that elusive Serie A title. That title is still as elusive today as it was then for the club.

Scala will do well in Turkey, as he has been one of the most professional and successful coaches in recent years in the Serie A. Parma is a team that always had good players but they were never quite in the same league as Juventus or AC Milan, who between them have dominated the Serie A in the last decade.

Parma are a good little team under current coach, Alberto Malesani, and they look like qualifying for the Champions League next year. However, some reports in the Italian media have claimed that the team will be dismantled next year, starting with 'keeper Gianluigi Buffon, defenders Fabio Cannavaro and Lillian Thuram and striker Hernan Crespo.

Parma officials have strenuously denied all. In fact, the club claims that the 'fab four' are untouchable and that the side will be strengthened next year as it aims for that elusive title (Scudetto).

Coach Malesani has already been confirmed for next year despite some rumours to the contrary earlier in the season and Lazio's Argentine midfielder Matias Almeyda is their number one objective.

It seems certain that he will leave Lazio and Parma is prepared to offer two players (Lassissi and Dino Baggio) plus some money (approx. $10 million) to the Roman club for his services.

Furthermore, Parma have eyes on Rui Costa, the creative Portuguese midfielder of Fiorentina, Farinos of Valencia, Micoud of Girondins Bordeaux and Brocchi and Falsini both of Verona.

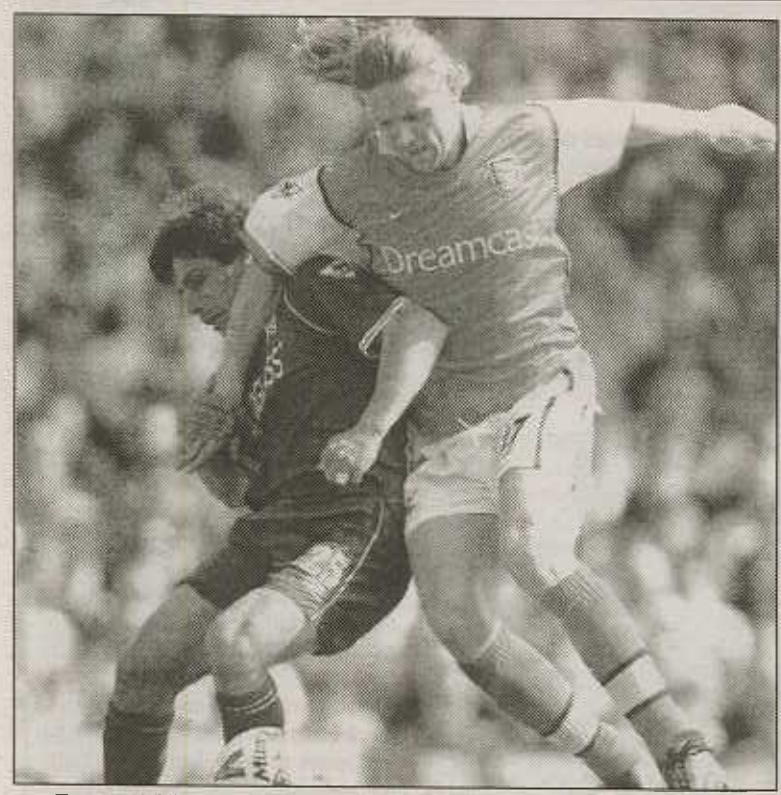
Leaving Parma as well, is the Argentine Ariel Ortega who never really settled into the team. It seems that Ortega is going to Napoli, should they gain promotion to the Serie A, and the number 10 jumper has already been marked as his. A little bit of nostalgia at Naples, given the previous Argentine number 10 in that city!

In other transfer rumours it seems certain that Christian Panucci, the Italian defender who has fallen out of favour, with his coach at Inter Marcello Lippi as well as national supremo Dino Zoff, will join Roma. In Rome he will link up with his favourite coach, Fabio Capello, who was his mentor both at AC Milan and Real Madrid.

And finally, the Italian media had a field week in the rumour mill stakes and none of the following 'pie in the sky' rumours have any real foundations. Gabriel Batistuta to leave Fiorentina for Inter, Andriy Shevchenko to leave AC Milan for Bayern Munich and Juan Veron to leave Lazio for Manchester Utd. I guess it's hard to fill three daily papers in Italy with sport. Nice try boys!

WORLD

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE



Emmanuel Petit shrugs off Chelsea's Gianfranco Zola. Arsenal all but secured a Champions League spot next season after defeating Chelsea 2-1.

LIVERPOOL 0 SOUTHAMPTON 0

Liverpool have now failed to score in four successive games and never looked like doing so in a poor performance against a Southampton team who had lost their previous three.

In fact Saints can count themselves unlucky not to have won as Liverpool keeper Sander Weststerveld twice did well to foil Jo Tessem.

The result leaves Liverpool's Champions League hopes in doubt but they are at least assured of a place in the UEFA Cup.

ARSENAL 2 CHELSEA 1

Chelsea produced a limp display to say goodbye to a League route into Europe as Thierry Henry punished some awful defending with goals after 21 and 43 minutes.

Substitute Gustavo Poyet volleyed one back 10 minutes from time as Chelsea finally found some appetite for the fight but the result, Arsenal's 12th win in a row, combined with Liverpool's draw secured a Champions League place but condemned Chelsea to finishing outside the top four.

COVENTRY CITY 4 SHEFF WED 1

Wednesday's relegation came ever closer after a feeble show.

Two goals for Gary McAllister and one each for Ysrael Zuniga and Mustapha Hadji gave Coventry the easiest of wins.

Gilles de Bilde pulled one back for Wednesday but it wasn't enough to stop the home fans singing: "You're not fit to wear the shirt."

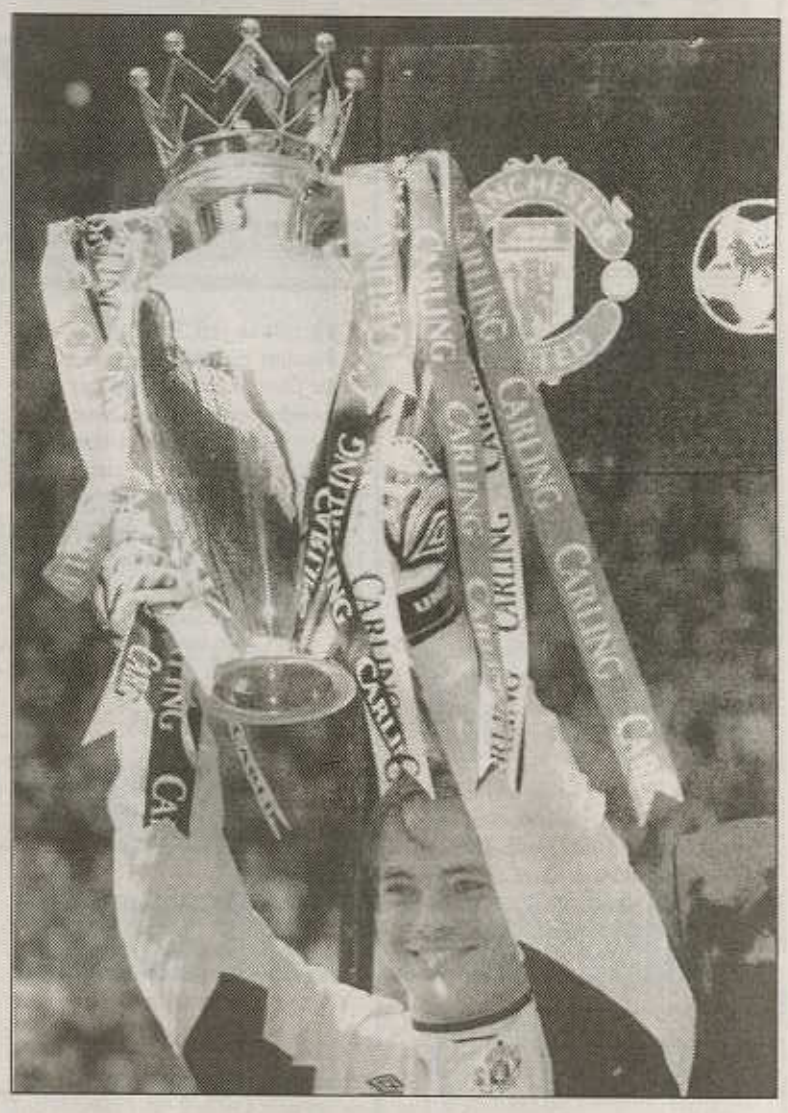
DERBY 0 NEWCASTLE UTD 0

The first goalless draw between the two since 1906 was enough to secure Derby's place in the top flight for another season.

LEICESTER CITY 3 BRADFORD CITY 0

Bradford opted to defend from the start and paid the price when Matt Elliott thumped in a header after an hour and glanced in another four minutes later.

Tony Cottee slotted in the third in the 68th minute as Bradford slipped back into the bottom three. Now even victory over Liverpool in their last game might not be enough.



Australian Mark Bosnich holds aloft the Premier League trophy.

David Beckham: Mr Spice once again delighted the Old Trafford crowd with this long range effort against Tottenham. United won 3-1 as they unveil their newly won Premiership trophy.

MAN UTD 3 TOTTENHAM 1

United cruised to a 3-1 win - all the goals coming in the first half - before receiving the championship trophy in front of a sun-drenched premier league crowd of 61,629.

First-half goals from Norwegian Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, David Beckham and Teddy Sheringham were too much for Spurs who were briefly level with a Chris Armstrong header.

After a flat second half, more energy went into the post-match celebrations as the players brought their families on to the pitch to share the adulation.

MIDDLESBROUGH 1 WATFORD 1

Robbie Stockdale put Middlesbrough ahead in the 27th minute after a bad backpass by David Peretuini but Darren Ward poked in an equaliser after 68 minutes.

The point was not the only reward for the Watford fans who made the long trip north - each one was given a free scarf by the Watford club.

SUNDERLAND 1 WEST HAM UTD 0

Kevin Phillips claimed his 30th league goal of the season after 14 minutes to earn the seventh placed team victory over the eighth.

WIMBLEDON 2 ASTON VILLA 2

An injury time header by substitute John Hartson earned Wimbledon a very important point and ended a run of eight successive defeats.

Wimbledon led when Villa defender Ugo Ehiogu headed into his own goal after 15 minutes but Lee Hendrie, with his first goal for more than a year, headed the equaliser in the 54th minute and Dion Dublin smashed Villa ahead after 74.

Wimbledon moved out of the bottom three and will stay up if they win at Southampton next week.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

— Semi Finals —

SEMI-FINALS

Second Leg — May 10

VALENCIA COACH URGES CAUTION

Valencia coach Hector Cuper was doing his best to urge caution after his side's 4-1 victory over Barcelona in a one-sided Champions League semi-final first leg.

But he admitted he was as delighted as many of the thousands of fans massed outside the club's Mestalla ground after what was an overwhelming win.

"The tie is not yet decided," Cuper insisted after a game which Valencia dominated. "Football is full of surprises, although it is true that everything is in our favour.

"I'm as happy as any of the fans singing outside after that performance. But I can't afford to slip into euphoria and lose concentration. There are still 90 minutes left to play.

"I'm not thinking about the final yet, although if we make it I can promise you it will get my full attention."

Cuper reckoned the key to the game was his side's ability to pressure Barca early on, as shown when they took the lead on 10 minutes through Miguel Angel Angulo.

"We didn't give Barcelona any space to play early in the match and that helped us with our first-half goals," said the Argentine coach. "We put a lot of pressure on them.

Barcelona's Dani wins possession above Valencia's Carboni.

"In the second half it was more a case of trying to hit them on the counter-attack, which we also managed to do."

Barcelona's Louis van Gaal was in phlegmatic mood after a game which has all but wiped out his hopes of leading the Catalans to their second European Cup win.

"Football's like that," said the Dutchman after watching all his plans wrecked by a poor performance from his players.

"Anything is still possible. It's going to be difficult but we always have hope."

Van Gaal defended his decision to play a three-man defence against a Valencia side renowned for their strength on the counter-attack.

"The formation wasn't the problem," he said. "The problem was that the defenders were sleeping in their positions.

"But it's a very disappointing result. When the team loses the coach loses too."

WOEFUL BARCA ON THE BRINK OF EXIT

VALENCIA	4
BARCELONA	1

Barcelona left themselves with another mammoth second leg task in the Champions League as they were deservedly beaten 4-1 by a more committed Valencia side in their all-Spanish semi-final first leg clash.

Miguel Angulo (centre) celebrates his double strike with team-mates.

Barca, who had to overcome a 3-1 defeat from their quarter-final first leg to get past Chelsea, will have to do even better after being comprehensively outplayed and outfought by their opponents from down the coast.

Miguel Angel Angulo put his side ahead on 10 minutes, added a second three minutes before the break after Barca had equalised with a Mauricio Pellegrino own goal and earned a penalty for Gaizka Mendieta to make it 3-1 on the stroke of halftime.

Barca, perhaps fancying their chances at 3-1, attacked only fitfully in the second half and paid the price in injury-time as Claudio Lopez struck from close range to complete a commanding victory that leaves them as strong favourites to make the final in Paris on May 24.

Barcelona will take comfort, however, from the fact that they have already beaten Valencia 3-0 on home territory in the league this season — a result that would be enough to send the Catalans through to a final against either Real Madrid or Bayern Munich.

Angulo, whose heroic two-goal display had Barca on the ropes by half-time, said his side had played superbly.

"We played some of the best football we have done all season," said the ecstatic Spanish under-21 midfielder.

"I was a little worried when the score was only 3-1 because we know that Barcelona can come back from that, and a goal away from home is important, but that fourth goal should be a big psychological blow.

"We are not in Paris yet though. I am sure Barcelona are going to make us suffer a lot in the Nou Camp, after all they are one of the best teams in Europe as well."

Valencia, playing with the same attacking fluency that had seen them overwhelm Lazio 5-2 in their quarter-final home match.

Valencia's Angulo shrugs off Barcelona's Puyol.

REAL'S DEL BOSQUE PRAISES HIS MEN

Real Madrid coach Vicente Del Bosque praised his side for turning on the style after their 2-0 Champions League first leg victory over Bayern Munich.

"In the first half we played with a great rhythm and great intensity. That gave us some breathing space in the second half," the unusually ebullient coach said.

Del Bosque is usually known for his cautious comments but the edges of his walrus moustache were pointing upwards after the match as he could hardly stop smiling.

He was only appointed as a caretaker manager until the end of the season, after the sacking of John Toshack in November, but he has defied his critics to take Real to the verge of the Champions League final for the second time in three years.

Into the bargain he has almost certainly got himself a new contract.

"Holding the opposition to no goals when you are talking about a team as good as Bayern is quite an achievement," Del Bosque added.

It was a very different story from the two meeetings the sides had earlier in the Champions League.

In the second group phase matches between the two sides Bayern beat Real madrid 4-2 in the Santiago Bernabeu stadium and then thrashed the Spaniards 4-1 in Germany.

"It's a two leg tie — and Bayern can expect us to play just as good a game at their place," Del Bosque said.

Real's midfield maestro Fernando Redondo in action against Bayern.

FINAL

Wednesday, May 24 At Stade de France

Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld tried hard to hide his disappointment at being so comprehensively outplayed.

"Going 1-0 behind so early really stung us. The own goal was just a stroke of bad luck that gave them control at half time," he said.

"We know how to play much better — and we will play much better in the return match," Hitzfeld warned.

He lamented Elber's close misses in the second half, when he squandered two clear-cut chances by heading over the bar.

"Of course, 2-1 would have been a much better result but nevertheless 2-0 still leaves us with plenty of possibilities," he added.

ANELKA GOAL PUTS REAL IN THE BOX SEAT

REAL MADRID	2
BAYERN MUNICH	0

Real Madrid avenged two group phase defeats by Bayern Munich when they beat the Germans 2-0 in the first leg of their Champions League semi-final tie at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Goals from Nicolas Anelka after four minutes and a Jens Jeremies own goal after 33 minutes, gave Real victory and the upper hand in the battle to make the Champions League final an all-Spanish affair — against Valencia or Barcelona — in Paris on May 24. Real are within sight of their second European Cup final in three seasons — but the tie is still finely balanced with the second leg to come in Munich next week.

Nicolas Anelka gives Real Madrid a 1-0 lead. The Spaniards won 2-0.

Real's Brazilian midfielder Savio said afterwards: "This tie is still very open. Now we've got the most difficult part to do. We can't go to Munich and play eight men at the back because Bayern are a good side and would surely punish us if we played like that."

Anelka scored when he rifled an angled shot into the roof of the net, after Raul had found the French international with a cross deep out of the midfield.

Real then had a goal disallowed for offside after Raul put the ball in from close range after a superb build-up but they only had to wait 13 minutes to go 2-0 up and defensive disarray in the Bayern defence enabled Real to double their lead.

Spanish international defender Salgado waltzed past several Bayern players before Jens Jeremies turned the ball into his own net under pressure from Salgado who carried on with his forward movement through the defence.

The victory gave Real a measure of revenge after Bayern defeated them 4-2 and 4-1 in the second group phase of the competition in March.

Their revenge will be complete if they finish the job in the second leg following Bayern's victories over Real in the European Cup semi-finals of 1976 and 1987.

Real Madrid started out determined to obliterate the memories of those beatings — throwing everything into attack from the outset.

After Anelka's goal — with the Frenchman finally showing the skill that prompted Real to pay Arsenal more than $35 million for his services — the assault on Bayern goalkeeper Oliver Kahn did not die down for the first 45 minutes.

Bayern desperately missed the influencial presence of their playmaker Stefan Effenberg and the midfield was controlled by Real's midfielder pairing of Fernando Redondo and Steve McManaman.

WORLD

FIFA World Rankings

(Valid until May 10)

1	Brazil	70	Latvia	138	Burundi
2	Czech Republic	71	Ecuador	139	Madagascar
3	France	72	Zimbabwe	140	Fiji
4	Spain	73	FYR Macedonia	141	Korea DPR
5	Germany	74	Guatemala	142	Tahiti
6	Argentina	75	Cuba	143	Benin
7	Norway	76=	Bosnia-Herzegovina	144	Dominican Republic
8=	Mexico	76=	Estonia	145	Cayman Islands
8=	Romania	78=	Senegal	146=	Andorra
10	Croatia	78=	Gabon	146=	Bermuda
11	Yugoslavia	80	Burkina Faso	148	Ethiopia
12	Denmark	81	Mali	149	Maldives
13	England	82	Albania	150=	Solomon Islands
14	Italy	83=	**AUSTRALIA**	150=	Rwanda
15	Portugal	83=	Namibia	152	Lesotho
16	Sweden	85	Algeria	153	Dominica
17	Colombia	86	Iraq	154=	Surinam
18=	United States	87	Northern Ireland	154=	Yemen
18=	Paraguay	88	Qatar	156	Antigua and Barbuda
20	Netherlands	89	Togo	157	San Marino
21	Scotland	90	Haiti	158=	Gambia
22	Russia	91	Armenia	158=	Sri Lanka
23	Chile	92	El Salvador	160	Laos
24	South Africa	93	Moldova	161	Botswana
25	Slovakia	94	Indonesia	162	Nepal
26	Morocco	95=	Oman	163	Netherlands Antilles
27	Tunisia	95=	Singapore	164	Kyrgyzstan
28	Israel	96	Guinea	165	British Virgin Is.
29	Ukraine	98	Wales	166	Mauritania
30	Austria	99	Vietnam SR	167	Chinese Taipei
31	Turkey	100	Congo	168	Niger
32	Greece	101	Belarus	169	Chad
33	Belgium	102	Azerbaijan	170	Palestine
34	Poland	103	New Zealand	171=	Cambodia
35	Cameroon	104	Jordan	171=	Eritrea
36	Ireland Republic	105	Mozambique	173	Macao
37	Egypt	106=	Syria	174	Philippines
38	Zambia	106=	Kenya	175	Guyana
39	Peru	108	Liberia	176	Bahamas
40=	Bulgaria	109	Malaysia	177	Guinea-Bissau
40=	Trinidad & Tobago	110	Barbados	178	Aruba
42	Uruguay	111	India	179	Central African Rep.
43	Korea Republic	112	Uganda	180	Pakistan
44	Slovenia	113	Lebanon	181	Tonga
44	Saudi Arabia	114	Malawi	181	Cape Verde Islands
46	Iran	115	Venezuela	183	Samoa
47	Cote d' Ivoire	116	Faroe Islands	184	Cook Islands
48	Iceland	117	Malta	185=	Papua New Guinea
49	Finland	118	Panama	185=	Brunei Darussalam
50=	Japan	119	Kazakhstan	187	Puerto Rico
50=	Jamaica	120	Turkmenistan	188	Vanuatu
52	Nigeria	121	Hong Kong	189	Belize
53	Hungary	122	Myanmar	190	Nicaragua
54	Lithuania	123=	Mauritius	191	Sao Tome e Principe
54	Switzerland	123=	Grenada	192	Equatorial Guinea
56	UAE	125	Tajikistan	193	Seychelles
57	Ghana	126	Bahrain	194	US Virgin Islands
57	Uzbekistan	127	St Lucia	195	Anguilla
59	Cyprus	128	Tanzania	196	Mongolia
60=	Thailand	129	Sierra Leone	197	Turks and Caicos Islands
60=	Angola	130	Libya	198	Djibouti
62	China PR	131	St Kitts & Nevis	199	Somalia
63	Canada	132	Luxemburg	200	Guam
64	Georgia	133	Liechtenstein	201	Montserrat
65	Kuwait	134	Swaziland	202	American Samoa
66	Honduras	135	Bangladesh		
67=	Congo DR	136	St Vincent/Gr		
67=	Costa Rica	137	Sudan		
69	Bolivia				

***Note:** Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.*

Viduka Wins Top Award

Mark Viduka, who has scored 27 goals for Celtic this season, has been named Scotland's Player of the Year by his fellow professionals.

But although the Scottish Professional Footballers Association awarded him their highest accolade, the ex-Dinamo Zagreb player has admitted he might not be at Celtic next season.

Mark Viduka

Viduka said: "I enjoy being at Celtic and the fans have been terrific with me, but I honestly do not know what will happen in the summer as there is a lot of talking to be done. I will wait until after the end of the season to make a decision."

The Australian-born striker, who joined Celtic in December 1998, initially took some time in settling, but has been in consistently good form all this season.

He has attracted the attention of a number of overseas clubs including Inter Milan, Deportivo La Coruna and Monaco.

Bierhoff wants to stay at AC Milan

German striker Oliver Bierhoff said last week he wanted to remain at AC Milan next year and had no intention of returning to his former Italian league club Udinese.

He said if he were to leave Milan he would move to a club in another country.

Bierhoff had been linked with a return to Udinese after an unspectacular season at Milan where he has been largely overshadowed by striking partner Andriy Shevchenko.

The German has scored 11 league goals this term — half as many as he managed in his final season at Udinese in 1997-98.

"When I left Udine, club president Giampaolo Pozzo told me the door was always open for my return but my intention is to stay at Milan next season too," Bierhoff said after a training session.

"If that proved to be impossible then I'd choose to change championship and try a new experience."

Oliver Bierhoff

Bierhoff has not scored for Milan since February 12 and was dropped by coach Alberto Zaccheroni for the Italian champions' last two matches.

"I'm calm, even though obviously I'd prefer to be playing rather than sitting on the bench," Bierhoff said.

"It's a situation I'm not used to but the only way I can convince the coach to pick me is through my work during the week," he ended.

Barthez disgusted and wants out

Fabien Barthez, French national goalkeeper and captain of champions Monaco, appeared to back down from his earlier demand for a transfer after claiming his club coach accused him of throwing a key match.

Barthez, who earlier said that it was out of the question for him to stay with Monaco, softened his stance after taking part in a team training session in preparation for a match against Le Havre.

"My departure is not definite. We're going to have a man-to-man discussion with the staff and the (club) president.

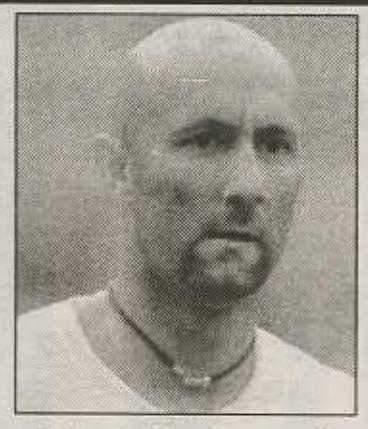
"There are still things to say," Barthez said after the training session.

Earlier, Barthez told French *daily L'Equipe* that he would not stay with Monaco after he claimed coach Claude Puel had accused him of being "paid off" by Olympique Marseille — his former team.

Puel declined comment after the training session.

But he and his deputy Jean-Luc Ettori reacted earlier with a statement expressing surprise at Barthez's accusations and saying he had told them he planned to stay with the club until the end of his contract in 2004.

They said they had criticised his performance in the match against Olympique Marseille, lost 4-2 by Monaco, but said his accusations were an interpretation of the meeting they did not share.



Fabien Barthez: Turnaround.

Barthez, whose trademark bald head is often kissed by his team mates in a good-luck gesture before matches, said he was deeply hurt by what he called Puel's accusation and his comment that "he did not want a black sheep in the team next year".

"There are things I cannot accept. Like when Puel said to me, 'At any rate I don't trust you. You did something to us in Marseille. You had a debt the day of the match at the Velodrome Stadium. You were paid off by Marseille'," he said.

Marseille's controversial 4-2 win over leaders Monaco on April 7 gave Olympique a big leg-up towards surviving in the French first division.

Monaco, who would have been crowned champions if they had won the match, had two men sent off and Marseille one. Monaco's Argentine midfielder Marcelo Gallardo spent the night in hospital with extensive bruising.

Barthez, who was part of the World Cup-winning team in 1998, won the European Cup with Marseille in 1993 — although they were later stripped of their title after a bribery scandal.

"As these are insinuations I cannot accept, I called the president (Jean-Louis) Campora the same evening. I explained the situation to him and I asked him to put me on the transfer list straight away," Barthez said.

In their statement, Puel and Ettori said they had told Barthez he had underperformed in the Marseille match.

"These interpretations are his alone," they said of his charges.

"He agreed to go to the end of his contract, which pleased us and reassured us about his intention to defend the colours of Monaco in future.

"This change of heart surprised us, especially since he went to the press with it. One has to wonder about the deeper reasons that led him to do this."

BELGIUM TO SEGREGATE EURO 2000 FANS

Belgium said last week it planned to keep apart fans from different countries travelling to and from Euro 2000 matches in a bid to prevent violent clashes.

"As far as possible fans of opposing teams will be kept segregated," Transport Minister Isabelle Durant said.

"Where possible, we will separate and channel flows of fans at the source — from railway stations, ports, airports and terminals directly to the stadiums."

Belgium expects about 550,000 fans to converge on the country and a further 110,000 to pass through en route to matches in the Netherlands which is co-hosting the championship between June 10 and July 2.

The country still has bitter memories of the 1985 Heysel Stadium disaster when 39 people, mainly Italians, were killed in rioting before the European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus.

In Belgium shuttle systems will operate between stadiums and special reception centres at airports, railway and metro stations. Most trains and shuttles will have a police escort.

Specialist "hooligan spotters" will also be deployed to identify and track troublemakers.

Those travelling by car — an estimated one in three — will be asked to follow road signs colour-coded to correspond with tickets for stadium seats in different supporters' areas and separate parking areas.

"When they get to the stadium ticket holders will be segregated according to the colour of their ticket," Durant said.

WORLD

Wimbledon Sack Olsen

Wimbledon sacked Norwegian manager Egil Olsen last week after eight successive defeats which have seen the English Premier League club nosedive into the relegation zone.

Wimbledon's Norwegian director Bjorne Rune Gjelsten confirmed Olsen's departure at a news conference at the club's training ground and said assistant coach Terry Burton was appointed immediate caretaker manager.

Mick Harford and Stewart Robson will assist him.

"I am sorry to say Egil Olsen has been relieved with immediate effect as manager," Gjelsten said.

"Relegation is not an option. Terry and the players are confident that we will stay up."

The colourful and often unconventional Olsen became the Premier League's first Norwegian boss when he took over in July last year but he failed to come to terms with the club's problems and personalities.

The 1994 and 1998 Norwegian World Cup coach also failed to produce the results where they most mattered, with Wimbledon's 3-0 defeat at Bradford City over the weekend proving to be the final nail in his coffin.

Gjelsten said he had met Olsen for a long talk after the Bradford game and both agreed a change was needed.

"We must put Wimbledon football club first and emotions and egos aside," said Gjelsten.

The 3-0 loss result allowed Bradford, who still remain the bookmakers' favourites to go down, to escape from the relegation zone by trading places with Wimbledon.

Olsen was the fourth Premier League manager to be replaced this season after Ruud Gullit at Newcastle United, Dave Jones at Southampton — who is on a sabbatical pending a court case unrelated to soccer — and Danny Wilson at Sheffield Wednesday.

In recent weeks speculation had mounted that Olsen would be replaced over the summer, whatever the fate of the club controlled by Norwegian billionaire Kjell Inge Roekke.

Egil Olsen: Sacked.

The calls for change have increased as Wimbledon's fall down the table has speeded up and the news conference, called on a national holiday in Britain, was an indication of the desperation at the club.

Wimbledon have never been relegated since they arrived in the top flight 14 years ago with a no-nonsense attitude and reputation as dangerous giant-killers.

But Olsen has been accused of destroying the club's notable "Crazy Gang" fighting spirit that has allowed them to live with the bigger sides over the years.

Striker John Hartson said that a change of manager was needed while Carl Cort said Olsen had lost the confidence of the players.

However captain Kenny Cunningham said he was saddened by Olsen's departure. "Egil has been very well liked and respected by the players," he said.

Former manager Joe Kinnear, Olsen's predecessor who left the club after suffering a heart attack, wondered openly at the weekend about the manager's priorities.

Olsen, a man who happily discourses on Marxist-Leninist theory and who wears rubber boots at matches to protect him from any dampness that may aggravate his rheumatism, did not generally fit the mould of English managers.

"When they got beat a few weeks ago, Egil was going on about the pollution in London and breathing in fumes on the way to the training ground," Kinnear told the *Sunday Times*.

"And you say 'well hold on a minute, you've lost six on the spin. Screw, the pollution up the road. Get your head on, son.

"It's the livelihood of the club that's at stake. Get relegated and they lose 12 million pounds from TV."

Second Award for Keane

Manchester United captain Roy Keane has completed an awards double with the Professional Footballers' Association player of the year accolade being added to that of the Football Writers' Association he won last week.

Keane, who also captains Ireland, won the vote ahead of Sunderland striker Kevin Phillips with Leeds United's 21-year-old Australian forward Harry Kewell third. Kewell won the award for young player of the year.

"I have had one shock this week by being voted footballer of the year by the writers but this is a bigger shock coming from my fellow professionals," said Keane, who has led United to their sixth Premier League title in eight seasons.

Roy Keane: Shocked.

Galatasaray on course for Unique treble after Turkish Cup win

UEFA Cup finalists Galatasaray stayed on course for a historic treble after retaining the Turkish Cup with a 5-3 extra time win over Antalyaspor last week.

Normal time ended 2-2 after some impressive goalkeeping by Antalyaspor's Adnan Karahan and poor finishing from Galatasaray.

Relegation strugglers Antalyaspor, who trail Galatasaray by 41 points in the league, threatened a major upset when Kamil Cakir gave fired them in front five minutes into extra time.

But Galatasaray hit back in emphatic fashion as they swept to an ultimately comfortable victory with goals from Hakan Unsal, Mehmet Yozgatli and Hakan Sukur.

"Both teams could have had it," said Galatasaray coach Fatih Terim after the game. "But in the end there were a lot of goals, which suits a cup final, and we won. I want to congratulate Antalyaspor — they showed their class and experience."

Galatasaray retain the Turkish Cup.

Terim said his side would focus on the defence of their league title before turning their attention to becoming the first Turkish club to win a European final.

The Istanbul club currently top the league face England's Arsenal in the UEFA Cup final in Copenhagen on May 17.

"Hopefully we will make ourselves comfortable in the league this weekend. Then we can think about Arsenal," he said.

JAPAN SOCCER BOSS GAGS COLLEAGUES OVER COACH

Japan's leading soccer official has banned his colleagues from commenting in public on the future of national coach Philippe Troussier.

The move, made by Japan Football Association (JFA) president Shun-ichiro Okano, follows a series of sensational media reports that has created "chaos" within the establishment over the fate of the coach, Okano said.

Troussier's contract ends on June 30 and his future will be discussed by the JFA's executive board on May 25.

But several newspapers, quoting inside sources, said the decision had already been made to fire the Frenchman.

Okano sent a letter to his three vice-presidents, secretary-general and committee members ordering them to keep their comments within the confines of the JFA.

"I have told them that this matter must be discussed among FA people first and we should not speak to people from outside the JFA," Okano said.

"If some official has any opinion, we should discuss it at length among ourselves, otherwise many rumours are flying in Japan. Everything is now going into chaos and this is not good for the FA."

Okano has remained loyal to Troussier, who took over as national coach in September 1998 after working for 10 years in Africa, but other leading JFA officials have openly criticised his off-field manner and on-field methods.

"We have to have leadership in this issue because it is very, very important for us to build up a good team for the 2002 World Cup. That is our main purpose and our responsibility," added Okano.

"We have to unite and show our solidarity."

A JFA sub-committee is preparing a report on Troussier's performance which will be put before the executive committee.

But Okano said even he did not know what the recommendation would be.

German players need more commitment — Vogts

Former German international coach Berti Vogts last week called on his successor Erich Ribbeck to push through his tactics more effectively in the run-up to next month's European championship.

"Something has to happen in the next game against the Czech Republic," Vogts, who led Germany to win the European Championship in 1996, said.

Vogts also slammed players who asked to be substituted early to make sure they were fit to play for their clubs in European competitions.

"The players have to know that they have got a job to do, damn it!

"If someone would prefer to play for their club, then they should play for their club. When I was in charge, the national team was always most important," Vogts said.

Berti Vogts: Things need to change.

The German national team's current miserable situation was as a result of the German Football Association (DFB) not doing enough to foster new talent, Vogts said.

Vogts stepped down after Germany's poor showing in the 1998 World Cup when they were knocked out in the quarter-finals.

Since Ribbeck was appointed his successor, Germany have won only eight of their 19 internationals.

Their latest poor showing was a 1-1 home draw with Switzerland on April 27.

They play the Czech Republic, one of the few Euro 2000 teams showing good form, on June 3 in Nuremberg.

I'm the man to save Wimbledon – Jones

Vinnie Jones, the former hardman of English soccer, has offered his services to save his former club Wimbledon from relegation to the first division.

Jones has recently embarked on a career in film acting but he said the stricken south London club should ditch new coach Terry Burton for the final two games of the season.

Burton took over following the sacking of former Norway coach Egil Olsen.

Wimbledon, third from bottom after losing eight consecutive games, are one point adrift of Bradford City who beat them 3-0 over the weekend, the final nail in Olsen's coffin.

Jones said Burton lacked leadership qualities and that Wimbledon should bring back himself, former coach Joe Kinnear or former striker John Fashanu.

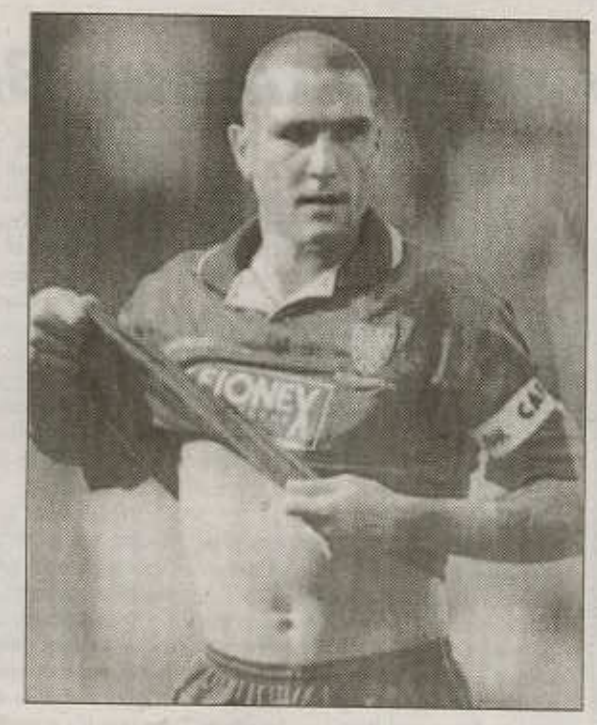
"Olsen should have gone six games ago," Jones said in a column in *The Daily Mirror*. "He was totally useless.

"So get Joe Kinnear back, appoint me or Fash (Fashanu).

"Let's get things going again," added Jones, who played a London gangster in the movie *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*.

"I'd take 200,000 pounds ($500,000) as thanks. They should give Joe that much too. We'd be cheap at twice the price because if Wimbledon go down it would cost millions."

Midfielder Jones also played for Chelsea, Queens Park Rangers, Leeds United, Sheffield United and Wales and retired from soccer last year.



Vinnie Jones: Possible savour for the Dons.

The 35-year-old was well known in England for his numerous sending-offs and tough guy image.

Fashanu, another prominent figure in Wimbledon's "Crazy Gang", has also offered his services.

"If you cut me open I would bleed Wimbledon through and through," he said at the weekend.

"I am going to put in an application for the manager's job — and that is because I believe there are people out there who would give me their support."

A spokesman for Wimbledon, who have not been relegated since their promotion to the top flight in 1986, said the club would not be considering Jones' suggestions.

Former Parma coach Scala joins Besiktas

Nevio Scala, former coach of Italian Serie A club Parma, signed a two-year contract to take charge of Turkish team Besiktas.

Besiktas parted company with German coach Hans Peter Briegel last week, saying they had refused to renew his contract because of a dispute over his translator's pay. Briegel said he had resigned.

A Besiktas official declined to say how much Scala's contract was worth but the Millyet newspaper said the Istanbul club had offered Scala a $3 million, two-year contract with a $500,000 bonus if he led the side to the league title.

Nevio Scala: Turkish Post.

Scala won the European Cup Winners' Cup and UEFA Cup during his spell with Parma but has been out of the game since he left Bundesliga club Borussia Dortmund in May 1998.

Besiktas have gone 14 matches without defeat but are still six points behind league leaders Galatasaray.

Robson charged with misconduct

The English Football Association (FA) charged Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson with misconduct for angry comments to a referee.

Former England captain Robson was reported by referee Neale Barry following an outburst over his side's Premier League defeat by Coventry on April 15.

FA spokesman Adrian Bevington said Robson had 14 days to respond to the charge, the fourth brought against Middlesbrough this season.

They currently face an FA misconduct charge of failing to control their players over an incident involving a linesman in last month's 4-3 defeat by Manchester United.

Bryan Robson: Charged.

Earlier in the season striker Brian Deane and midfielder Paul Gascoigne were banned on video evidence for clashes with opponents.

Sporting Lisbon stocks surge on title hopes

Shares in Sporting Lisbon soared over 30 percent last week as investors bet the club would win the Portuguese championship this season for the first time in 18 years.

The share rose to 7.58 euros last Tuesday, against its close at 5.88 euros on the Friday ahead of the long holiday weekend, in unusually heavy trade of some 29,000 stocks.

"The prospect of the championship has acted as a real catalyst," said share trader Mario Vigario of Lisbon online brokers E-Deal.

But traders said that it was not only the likelihood of Sporting's lifting the title that was galvanising the stock.

It was also benefitting from investor belief that soccer clubs could become valuable partners for new media and Internet companies looking to make their Web sites more attractive.

Peter Schmeichel: Lisbon keeper close to more success.

"Euphoria over the league is not enough to justify such a rise (in the share price). There is also the question of their value as (Internet) content providers," said another trader.

Shares in Porto, the only other club quoted on the local bourse, closed some two percent higher at 5.32 euros but this gain was in line with that of the overall stock market index.

THE BETTING

EURO 2000 CHAMPIONSHIP

Holland	$4.50
Italy	$6.50
Spain	$7.00
France	$8.00
Germany	$10.00
England	$12.00
Sweden	$17.00
Czech Republic	$19.00
Belgium	$19.00
Norway	$23.00
Yugoslavia	$26.00
Portugal	$26.00
Romania	$31.00
Denmark	$51.00
Turkey	$67.00
Slovenia	$126.00

NSL PREMIERSHIP

Perth Glory	$2.15
Wollongong Wolves	$2.30
Carlton SC	$9.00
Adelaide Force	$11.00
Marconi	$13.00
Sydney Olympic	$21.00
Newcastle Breakers	$29.00

FA CUP 2000

Chelsea	$1.55
Aston Villa	$2.35

UEFA CUP

Arsenal	$1.55
Galatasaray	$2.35

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Valencia	$2.35
Bayern Munich	$3.25
Real Madrid	$3.25
Barcelona	$10.00

ITALIAN SERIE A

Juventus	$1.22
Lazio	$5.00
AC Milan	$13.00
Inter Milan	$17.00
Parma	$51.00

WORLD

END OF THE FOREIGN LEGION

Vialli now wants to buy British

Gianluca Vialli is ready to tear up Chelsea's foreign signing policy in a bid to deliver the Championship chairman Ken Bates craves.

Since Vialli took over as manager from Ruud Gullit two years ago, the only British player he has bought has been £10 million flop Chris Sutton.

In addition, 11 of the 14 players Vialli has sold have been British, and he stands accused of ignoring the claims of domestic players in favour of overseas stars.

But Chelsea's almost certain failure to even qualify for next season's Champions League has forced a dramatic rethink of Vialli's transfer policy and he is ready to buy British this summer, believing home-grown players will bring the squad what they lacked in the Premiership this campaign.

He said: "I think to have English players would be a good thing. If they're available and don't cost a fortune, then I can't see why not. "They speak the language and can communicate better on the pitch. They also realise what it takes to play against Everton or Sheffield Wednesday.

Gianluca Vialli: Change of structure to come.

"It might be difficult for them to play in Europe, of course, so it's a Catch 22. But I think they would understand the demands of the Premiership more." Already, Chelsea are thought to be keen on Liverpool's Jamie Redknapp and Robbie Fowler, West Ham duo Frank Lampard and Trevor Sinclair, Andy Cole at Manchester United and Ipswich goalkeeper Richard Wright.

Any move for Wright would be surprising because of Ed De Goey's good form this season but it is thought that Chelsea are keen on someone who is more of a 'sweeper-keeper' for tactical reasons next season.

Vialli knows how desperate Bates is to be chairman of the first Chelsea Championship-winning side since 1955.

The chairman was utterly confident that this would be the season his dream was realised, counting on the demands of the expanded Champions League — as well as trips to Japan and Brazil — knocking Manchester United out of the equation. Instead, despite the summer acquisitions of Didier Deschamps and Sutton to join Vialli's star-studded squad, Chelsea are 23 points behind the Old Trafford side.

Chelsea have lost to Watford, Derby and Wednesday this season, as well as dropping points to Bradford, Southampton and Coventry — all in the bottom seven — and the manager accepts attitudes must change.

Vialli said: "Our priority next season will be the Championship and I think our transfer policy will reflect that. The budget we will have at our disposal will be different to last season.

"If you want to win the Champions League you go for certain players. If you want to do well in the Premiership you go for different players.

"It depends on what you want to win. Again we want to improve the team.

"If somebody comes from the Continent it takes a while to settle in the Premiership because it's a totally different game from what they are used to.

"The referees are different, so is the atmosphere, and the tempo. They're all totally different so I would not mind having more English players in the side — as long as they're not too expensive, because sometimes the asking prices are crazy.

"We will give everybody a chance. The expectations are high and we have to make sure we field the best possible team, but if young or even less young English players can show me they should be part of our group I've got no problems about that."

The problem for Vialli is deciding who to ship out.

Deschamps, Romanian Dan Petrescu, Bernard Lambourde and Frank Leboeuf appear among the most vulnerable, although Vialli insists he has made no decisions at this stage.

He said: "I want to concentrate on the finish of the season then sit down with Colin Hutchinson and with Ken Bates and talk about that. We're not looking for a clear-out at all."

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West Ham face possible charge after referee clash

West Ham could faces charges of failing to control their players after referee Paul Durkin was manhandled during the recent stormy London derby, won 2-1 by Arsenal with a controversial injury-time winner.

West Ham believed Frenchman Emmanuel Petit handled the ball before scoring Arsenal's second goal from the edge of the penalty area.

Marc Vivien Foe led the charge of West Ham players after the final whistle and seemed to make contact with Durkin. Newspaper photographs showed Durkin apparently trying to hold Foe off.

The English Football Association (FA) said it would view video evidence and wait for a report by Durkin before deciding whether to charge West Ham.

"In February, the FA sent a directive to all clubs warning them that collective dissent towards match officials would be regarded as a breach of its rules," the FA said.

"It also made abundantly clear in this letter that any club would face action for any mass or collective dissent towards match officials."

West Ham manager Harry Redknapp was incensed by the refereeing decision.

"Some of my players were in tears after the game," he said.

"They deserved some reward and they feel they've been cheated by a referee who robbed them of a result with a terrible decision.

"I don't think anyone jostled the ref but obviously my players were upset."

Durkin booked Paolo di Canio and Trevor Sinclair for dissent after the goal and Sinclair was sent off for a second bookable offence a minute later.

Harry Redknapp

So far Leeds, Chelsea, and Tottenham Hotspur have been fined for a breach of FA Rule 24, covering collective dissent, and further charges have been laid against Chelsea and Middlesbrough.

Manchester United were not charged but the champions' mass harassment of a referee in January prompted the FA letter.

United players ran 40 metres across the Old Trafford pitch to chase a referee when he awarded a penalty.

In September 1998 Di Canio was involved in one of the worst incidents of dissent in the English game when he was playing for Sheffield Wednesday. The Italian pushed a referee to the ground and was banned for 11 games by the FA.

Auxerre coach to quit after 39 years

Guy Roux, who began coaching at AJ Auxerre 39 years ago, said last week he will step down at the end of the season but will stay at the club as general manager for the next three years.

"I thought about it for two or three weeks before making up my mind," 61-year-old Roux said on French television.

"I felt a little bit tired during the winter and I fear that such a mishap could happen again next year," Roux said. "This is the reason why I asked the chairman to cut my current contract of one year."

Roux, a former amateur player, began his coaching career at Auxerre, who were a regional non-League junior club in 1961, and stayed with the Burgundy side ever since.

The fairytale story was completed when they won the French Cup and League double in 1996. They also won the French Cup in 1994.

"I still have a great desire to lead a team," he said. "And I'm staying at the club's disposal for another job."

Auxerre offered Roux the post of general manager and he said he would take the opportunity.

Asked about the name of his probable successor, Roux said Auxerre officials have several names in mind without elaborating.

"There's a lot of French coaches of great quality and we will have the choice," he said.

Lineker, Woodcock make goodwill trip to Belgium

Former England stars Gary Lineker and Tony Woodcock met groups of English and German fans last week at the Charleroi stadium which will host the much-hyped Euro 2000 clash between the two countries on June 17.

The goodwill visit by the German and English official supporters' clubs came as part of a campaign to calm public fears about crowd trouble at the game between the old soccer rivals in the southern Belgian city.

"I've come over here with a group of English supporters to try and get a message across to local supporters here in Charleroi and hopfully all Belgium and Holland as well," Lineker said.

"The huge majority of English supporters are coming here this summer to enjoy themselves ... and to create hopefully a better reputation when they leave than they had when they arrived.

"I think we all know that English supporters have a reputation for having problems with hooliganism and our domestic game is now practicaly clear of any sorts of problems at all. We want to carry that to the international scene."

With just over five weeks until Euro 2000 kicks off, media attention is still focused on potential trouble at the England-Germany match, particularly after police unions expressed concern over the safety of the revamped Charleroi stadium.

Both England and German fans have gained a reputation for hooliganism over the years and the authorities in co-hosts Belgium and the Netherlands have promised a tough line against trouble-makers.

Lineker said he felt the Charleroi stadium, where the 30,000 spectators are packed in close to the playing surface, was "very English".

He visited a local children's hospital before the party moved on to Waterloo for a training session with local youngsters.

England will spend the night before the Germany match in Waterloo.

Gary Lineker: Restoring reputations.

Rebrov eager for Spurs move

Serhiy Rebrov of Dynamo Kiev, one of the top strikers in Europe, pledged his future to English Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur last week, saying: "I am confident the deal will be signed and sealed in the next two weeks."

Rebrov, 26, is believed to have agreed a 25,000 pounds ($62,500)-a-week salary with Tottenham, with the clubs still to finalise the fee which is set to be a club record for Spurs of 10 million pounds ($25 million).

However, Tottenham have been linked to a number of strikers in the recent past with none of the deals materialising.

If he does join the London club it will be a major coup for Spurs, one of the biggest clubs in England who have under-performed in mid-table for a number of years.

They have been looking for a top-class striker for at least two seasons — and have also been linked again with Celtic striker Mark Viduka who could partner Rebrov in a potentially lethal strike force.

"Spurs managed to find a common language with me. I am looking forward to playing in England, I like it better than Italian football," Rebrov said.

"At a club like Tottenham the coach gets the strikers to run and get the ball. I am used to that. I have played like that all the time."

The coach in question, George Graham, will perform a real coup if he manages to complete the deal ahead of opposition from Inter Milan, Rangers and Spurs' arch-rivals Arsenal.

Rebrov, who formed a great striking partnership with former Kiev team mate Andriy Shevchenko, who is now at AC Milan, has scored more than 100 league goals for Dynamo and is joint sixth in the all-time list of scorers in the European Cup/Champions League with 28 goals, along with Jean-Pierre Papin of France.

Greek midfielder to join Kaiserslautern

Greek midfielder Dimitrios Grammozis will join Kaiserslautern at the end of the season from fellow First Division Hamburg SV.

Kaiserslautern said last week that Grammozis, 21, had signed a six-year contract for a transfer fee of around 2.4 million marks ($1.10 million).

New Villa Deal for Gregory

John Gregory

Aston Villa manager John Gregory has agreed a new three-year deal at the English FA Cup finalists.

Gregory, who returned to the Birmingham club in February 1998 to take over from Brian Little, helped the team into Europe in his first season in charge.

Villa take on fellow Premier League campaigners Chelsea in the FA Cup final later this month.

Hajduk Fans Banned

Croatia's association last week banned fans from Hajduk Split's stadium for the next three games after more than 100 people were injured in violence during a Cup final between Hajduk and Dinamo Zagreb.

The match — with the second leg to be played in Zagreb on May 16 — has been registered as a 2-0 win for Hajduk — the actual score before the game was abandoned four minutes from time, an official of the Croatian Soccer Association said.

"The disciplinary committee also ordered Hajduk to play the next three games in an empty stadium, with no fans allowed," the official said.

The ban will effectively keep supporters out for the rest of the domestic season — three more rounds. Dinamo have all but secured their fifth consecutive title as they are well clear of second-placed Hajduk.

Police had to use tear gas to prevent opposing groups of fans from further clashes. There were 98 arrests.

TV GUIDE

*** All times are Australian Eastern Standard Summer Time**

TUESDAY MAY 9

Brazilian Carioca Football
Teams TBA
Optus Vision (ESPN)
9am - 11am

Italian Serie A
Roma v AC Milan
Optus Vision (ESPN)
11am - 1pm

Futbol Mundial
SBS TV
4pm - 4.30pm

English Premier League
Replay of Morning match
Fox Sports
4.30pm - 6.30pm

Dutch First Division
AZ Alkmaar v Vitesse
Optus Vision (ESPN)
5pm - 7pm

UEFA Champions League
Semi Finals 2nd Leg
Real Madrid v Bayern Munich (LIVE)
Optus Vision (ESPN)
4.30am - 7am
(Wednesday Morning)

WEDNESDAY MAY 10

Italian Serie A
Football Extra
Optus Vision (ESPN)
3pm - 4pm

English Premier League
Show
Fox Sports
8.30pm - 10pm

European Soccer Show
Optus Vision
(C7 Sport 12)
10pm - 11pm

UEFA Champions League
Semi Finals 2nd Leg
Barcelona v Valencia
(LIVE)
Optus Vision (ESPN)
4.30am - 7am
(Thursday Morning)

UEFA Champions League
Semi Finals 2nd Leg
Barcelona v Valencia
(LIVE)
SBS TV
4.30am - 7am
(Thursday Morning)

THURSDAY MAY 11

English Premier League
Show
Fox Sports
8am - 9.30am

UEFA Champions League
Weekly
Optus Vision (ESPN)
12.30pm - 1.30pm

Best Of English Soccer
Optus Vision
(C7 Sport 12)
5.30pm - 6.30pm

Soccer Central
Optus Vision
(C7 Sport 12)
9.30pm - 10.30pm

Spanish Primera Liga
Fox Sports
9.30pm - 11.30pm

FRIDAY MAY 12

German Bundesliga
Bayern Munich v Munich 1860
Optus Vision
(C7 Sport 13)
3.30pm - 5.30pm

Soccer Scene
Fox Sports
5.30pm - 6.30pm

SATURDAY MAY 13

Soccer Scene
Fox Sports
12pm - 1pm

Scottish Premier League
Fox Sports
1pm - 3pm

UEFA Champions League
Weekly
Optus Vision (ESPN)
3pm - 4pm

UEFA Champions League
highlights
SBS TV
3.30pm - 4.30pm

World Soccer
SBS TV
4.30pm - 5.30pm

English Premier League
Preview Show
Fox Sports 2
5pm - 5.30pm

English Premier League
(REPEAT)
SBS TV
5.30pm - 6.30pm

National Soccer League
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Optus Vision
(C7 Sport 12)
6pm - 8.30pm

SUNDAY MAY 14

English First Division
Playoffs
Semi Final 1st Leg
Teams TBA
Optus Vision
(C7 Sport 13)
10am - 12pm

US Major League Soccer
New England v DC United
(LIVE)
Optus Vision (ESPN)
10am - 12pm

Italian Serie A
SBS TV
10.30am - 11.30am

On the Ball
SBS TV
11.30am - 12.30pm

Football Weekend
Optus Vision (ESPN)
2pm - 3pm

National Soccer League
ABC TV
5pm - 7pm

English Premier League
Final day of season
Teams TBA
Fox Sports 2
12am - 4am
(Monday Morning)

Dutch First Division
Teams TBA
Optus Vision (ESPN)
2am - 4am
(Monday Morning)

Italian Serie A
Teams TBA (LIVE)
Optus Vision (ESPN)
4.25am - 7am
(Monday Morning)

MONDAY MAY 15

Football Weekend
Optus Vision (ESPN)
3pm - 4pm

English Premier League
highlights
Fox Sports
5.30pm - 6.30pm

English Premier League
highlights
SBS TV
7.30pm - 8.30pm

English Premier League
Replay of overnight matches
Fox Sports 2
9pm - 12am

Italian Serie A
Teams TBA
Optus Vision (ESPN)
12am - 2am
(Tuesday Morning)

WORLD

Excludes Monday games

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

CHAMPION — MANCHESTER UNITED
RELEGATED — WATFORD

Liverpool 0 Southampton 0, Arsenal 2 Chelsea 1, Coventry 4 Sheffield Wednesday 1, Derby County 0 Newcastle United 0, Leicester City 3 Bradford City 0, Manchester United 3 Tottenham Hotspur 1, Middlesbrough 1 Watford 1, Sunderland 1 West Ham United 0, Wimbledon 2 Aston Villa 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Manchester United	**37**	**27**	**7**	**3**	**96**	**45**	**88**
2. Arsenal	36	22	6	8	68	36	72
3. Liverpool	37	19	10	8	51	29	67
4. Leeds United	36	21	4	11	57	42	67
5. Chelsea	37	17	11	9	49	34	62
6. Aston Villa	37	15	13	9	46	34	58
7. Sunderland	37	16	10	11	56	53	58
8. Leicester City	37	16	7	14	55	51	55
9. West Ham United	37	15	9	13	52	53	54
10. Tottenham	37	14	8	15	54	48	50
11. Everton	36	12	13	11	58	46	49
12. Newcastle United	37	13	10	14	59	52	49
13. Middlesbrough	37	13	10	14	44	52	49
14. Coventry City	37	12	8	17	47	53	44
15. Southampton	37	11	8	18	43	62	41
16. Derby County	37	9	11	17	44	53	38
17. Wimbledon	37	7	12	18	46	72	33
18. Bradford City	37	8	9	20	37	68	33
19. Sheff Wednesday	36	7	6	23	31	67	27
20. Watford	***37***	***5***	***6***	***26***	***34***	***77***	***21***

LEADING SCORERS

30 - Kevin Phillips (Sunderland)
22 - Alan Shearer (Newcastle United)
20 - Dwight Yorke (Manchester United)
19 - Andy Cole (Manchester United)
18 - Michael Bridges (Leeds United)
16 - Paolo Di Canio (West Ham United), Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
14 - Steffen Iversen (Tottenham Hotspur), Niall Quinn (Sunderland), Chris Armstrong (Tottenham Hotspur)
13 - Tony Cottee (Leicester City)
12 - Kevin Campbell (Everton), Robbie Keane (Coventry City), Paulo Wanchope (West Ham United), Hamilton Ricard (Middlesbrough), Marians Pahars (Southampton), Dion Dublin (Aston Villa), Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (Manchester United)
11 - Michael Owen (Liverpool), Nwankwo Kanu (Arsenal), Gary McAllister (Coventry City)
10 - Emile Heskey (Liverpool, 7 for Leicester City), Dean Windass (Bradford City), Harry Kewell (Leeds United)
9 - Tore Andre Flo (Chelsea), Carl Cort (Wimbledon), Titi Camara (Liverpool), Patrik Berger (Liverpool), Paul Scholes (Manchester United), Gary McAllister (Coventry City), Gustavo Poyet (Chelsea), John Hartson (Wimbledon).

ENGLISH FIRST DIVISION

CHAMPION — CHARLTON
PROMOTED — MANCHESTER CITY
RELEGATED — WALSALL, PORT VALE, SWINDON

Barnsley 0 Crewe 2, Birmingham 0 Grimsby 0, Blackburn 1 Manchester City 4, Bolton 1 Norwich 0 Fulham 3 Huddersfield 0, Ipswich 2 Walsall 0 Port Vale 0 Wolverhampton 1, Portsmouth 1 Queens Park Rangers 3 Sheffield United 2 Swindon 2, Stockport 2 Nottingham Forest 3, Tranmere 1 Crystal Palace 2, West Bromwich 2 Charlton 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Charlton	**46**	**27**	**10**	**9**	**79**	**45**	**91**
2. Manchester City	46	26	11	9	78	40	89
3. Ipswich	46	25	12	9	71	42	87
4. Barnsley	46	24	10	12	88	67	82
5. Birmingham	46	22	11	13	65	44	77
6. Bolton	46	21	13	12	69	50	76
7. Wolverhampton	46	21	11	14	64	48	74
8. Huddersfield	46	21	11	14	62	49	74
9. Fulham	46	17	16	13	49	41	67
10. QPR	46	16	18	12	62	53	66
11. Blackburn	46	15	17	14	55	51	62
12. Norwich	46	14	15	17	45	50	57
13. Tranmere	46	15	12	19	57	68	57
14. Nottingham Forest	46	14	14	18	53	55	56
15. Crystal Palace	46	13	15	18	57	67	54
16. Sheffield United	46	13	15	18	59	71	54
17. Stockport	46	13	15	18	55	67	54
18. Portsmouth	46	13	12	21	55	66	51
19. Crewe	46	14	9	23	46	67	51
20. Grimsby	46	13	12	21	41	67	51
21. West Bromwich	46	10	19	17	43	60	49
22. Walsall	***46***	***11***	***13***	***22***	***52***	***77***	***46***
23. Port Vale	***46***	***7***	***15***	***24***	***48***	***69***	***36***
24. Swindon	***46***	***8***	***12***	***26***	***38***	***77***	***36***

PLAYOFFS
Bolton v Ipswich
Birmingham v Barnsley

To be played over two legs.
First leg: May 13. Second leg: May 16, 17 or 18.

ENGLISH SECOND DIVISION

CHAMPION — PRESTON
PROMOTED — BURNLEY
RELEGATED — BLACKPOOL, SCUNTHORPE, CHESTERFIELD, CARDIFF

Blackpool 2 Chesterfield 2, Bournemouth 2 Wigan 2, Brentford 0 Colchester 0, Bristol City 0 Preston 2, Cambridge 1 Wycombe 2, Cardiff 1 Bristol Rovers 0, Luton 1 Oldham 1, Millwall 1 Oxford 0, Notts County 2 Bury 2, Reading 1 Stoke 0, Scunthorpe 1 Burnley 2, Wrexham 1 Gillingham 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Preston	**46**	**28**	**11**	**7**	**74**	**37**	**95**
2. Burnley	46	25	13	8	69	47	88
3. Gillingham	46	25	10	11	79	48	85
4. Wigan	46	22	17	7	72	38	83
5. Millwall	46	23	13	10	76	50	82
6. Stoke	46	23	13	10	68	42	82
7. Bristol Rovers	46	23	11	12	69	45	80
8. Notts County	46	18	11	17	61	55	65
9. Bristol City	46	15	19	12	59	57	64
10. Reading	46	16	14	16	57	63	62
11. Wrexham	46	17	11	18	52	61	62
12. Wycombe	46	16	13	17	56	53	61
13. Luton	46	17	10	19	61	65	61
14. Oldham	46	16	12	18	50	55	60
15. Bury	46	13	18	15	61	64	57
16. Bournemouth	46	16	9	21	59	62	57
17. Brentford	46	13	13	20	47	61	52
18. Colchester	46	14	10	22	59	82	52
19. Cambridge	46	12	12	22	64	65	48
20. Oxford	46	12	9	25	43	73	45
21. Cardiff	***46***	***9***	***17***	***20***	***45***	***67***	***44***
22. Blackpool	***46***	***8***	***17***	***21***	***49***	***77***	***41***
23. Scunthorpe	***46***	***9***	***12***	***25***	***40***	***74***	***39***
24. Chesterfield	***46***	***7***	***15***	***24***	***34***	***63***	***36***

PLAYOFFS
Stoke v Gillingham
Millwall v Wigan

To be played over two legs.
First leg: May 13. Second leg: May 16, 17 or 18.

ENGLISH THIRD DIVISION

CHAMPION — SWANSEA
PROMOTED — ROTHERHAM, NORTHAMPTON
RELEGATED — CHESTER

Brighton 1 Carlisle 0, Chester 0 Peterborough 1, Darlington 2 Lincoln 0, Exeter 1 Shrewsbury 2, Halifax 0 Macclesfield 1, Hull City 0 Hartlepool 3, Leyton Orient 0 York 0, Mansfield 2 Plymouth Rochdale 2, 1 Barnet 1, Rotherham 1 Swansea 1, Southend 2 Cheltenham 1, Torquay 1 Northampton 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Swansea	**46**	**24**	**13**	**9**	**51**	**30**	**85**
2. Rotherham	46	24	12	10	72	36	84
3. Northampton	46	25	7	14	63	45	82
4. Darlington	46	21	16	9	66	36	79
5. Peterborough	46	22	12	12	63	54	78
6. Barnet	46	21	12	13	59	53	75
7. Hartlepool	46	21	9	16	60	49	72
8. Cheltenham	46	20	10	16	50	42	70
9. Torquay	46	19	12	15	62	52	69
10. Rochdale	46	18	14	14	57	54	68
11. Brighton	46	17	16	13	64	46	67
12. Plymouth	46	16	18	12	55	51	66
13. Macclesfield	46	18	11	17	66	61	65
14. Hull City	46	15	14	17	43	43	59
15. Lincoln	46	15	14	17	67	69	59
16. Southend	46	15	11	20	53	61	56
17. Mansfield	46	16	8	22	50	65	56
18. Halifax	46	15	9	22	44	58	54
19. Leyton Orient	46	13	13	20	47	52	52
20. York	46	12	16	18	39	53	52
21. Exeter	46	11	11	24	46	72	44
22. Shrewsbury	46	9	13	24	40	67	40
23. Carlisle	46	9	12	25	42	75	39
24. Chester	***46***	***10***	***9***	***27***	***44***	***79***	***39***

PLAYOFFS
Hartlepool v Darlington
Barnet v Peterborough

To be played over two legs.
First leg: May 13. Second leg: May 16, 17 or 18.

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

CHAMPION — RANGERS

Kilmarnock 0 Rangers 2, Celtic 5 Aberdeen 1, Dundee 3 Dundee United 0, Hearts 0 St Johnstone 0, Motherwell 2 Hibernian 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Rangers	**34**	**27**	**6**	**1**	**95**	**24**	**87**
2. Celtic	34	20	5	9	88	38	65
3. Hearts	34	14	9	11	45	38	51
4. Motherwell	34	12	10	12	45	62	46
5. St Johnstone	34	10	11	13	34	42	41
6. Hibernian	34	10	11	13	48	58	41
7. Dundee United	34	11	6	17	33	53	39
8. Dundee	34	11	5	18	44	62	38
9. Kilmarnock	34	7	13	14	34	45	34
10. Aberdeen	34	7	6	21	37	82	27

Note: No relegation from premier league this season

LEADING SCORERS

25 - Mark Viduka (Celtic)
18 - Billy Dodds (Rangers, 9 for Dundee United)
17 - Jorg Albertz (Rangers)
16 - Rod Wallace (Rangers)
13 - Willie Falconer (Dundee)
12 - Gary McSwegan (Hearts)
11 - Kenny Miller (Hibernian)
10 - John Spencer (Motherwell), Nathan Lowndes (St Johnstone), Mark Burchill (Celtic)
9 - Michael Mols (Rangers), Eyal Berkovic (Celtic), Russell Latapy (Hibernian), Lee McCulloch (Motherwell), Tommy Johnson (Celtic)
8 - Colin Cameron (Hearts), Arild Stavrum (Aberdeen), Mixu Paatelainen (Hibernian), Lubomir Moravcik (Celtic)
7 - Henrik Larsson (Celtic), Christophe Cocard (Kilmarnock), Dirk Lehmann (Hibernian)
6 - Jonatan Johannson (Rangers), Joaquim Ferraz (Dundee United), Darren Jackson (Hearts), David Hannah (Dundee United), Gary Wales (Hearts), Robbie Winters (Aberdeen), James Grady (Dundee).

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

CHAMPION — ST MIRREN
PROMOTED — DUNFERMLINE
RELEGATED — CLYDEBANK

Airdrie 0 Livingston 2, Ayr 3 Falkirk 3, Inverness CT 5 St Mirren 0, G Morton 2 Dunfermline 0, Raith 0 Clydebank 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. St Mirren	**36**	**23**	**7**	**6**	**75**	**39**	**76**
2. Dunfermline	36	20	11	5	66	33	71
3. Falkirk	36	20	8	8	67	40	68
4. Livingston	36	19	7	10	60	45	64
5. Raith	36	17	8	11	55	40	59
6. Inverness CT	36	13	10	13	60	55	49
7. Ayr	36	10	8	18	42	52	38
8. G Morton	36	10	6	20	45	61	36
9. Airdrie	36	7	8	21	29	69	29
10. Clydebank	***36***	***1***	***7***	***28***	***17***	***82***	***10***

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

CHAMPION — CLYDE
PROMOTED — ROSS COUNTY, ALLOA

Alloa 6 Queen of South 1, Arbroath 3 Partick 2, Hamilton 1 Stirling 0, Stenhousemuir 2 Ross County 2, Stranraer 2 Clyde 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Clyde	36	18	11	7	65	37	65
2. Alloa	36	17	13	6	58	38	64
3. Ross County	36	18	8	10	57	39	62
4. Arbroath	36	11	14	11	52	55	47
5. Partick	36	12	10	14	42	44	46
6. Stranraer	36	9	18	9	47	46	45
7. Stirling	36	11	7	18	60	72	40
8. Stenhousemuir	36	10	8	18	44	59	38
9. Queen of South	36	8	9	19	45	75	33
10. Hamilton	36	10	14	12	39	44	29

SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION

CHAMPION — QUEENS PARK
PROMOTED — BERWICK, FORFAR

Berwick 2 Montrose 1, Brechin 3 Albion 2, Cowdenbeath 2 Queens Park 3, Dumbarton 2 East Fife 1, East Stirling 0 Forfar 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Queens Park	**36**	**20**	**9**	**7**	**54**	**37**	**69**
2. Berwick	36	19	9	8	53	30	66
3. Forfar	36	17	10	9	64	40	61
4. East Fife	36	17	8	11	45	39	59
5. Cowdenbeath	36	15	9	12	59	43	54
6. Dumbarton	36	15	8	13	53	51	53
7. East Stirling	36	11	7	18	28	50	40
8. Brechin	36	10	8	18	42	51	38
9. Montrose	36	10	7	19	39	54	37
10. Albion	36	5	7	24	33	75	22

ITALIAN SERIE A

Bologna 2 Lazio 3, Inter Milan 0 Fiorentina 4, Juventus 1 Parma 0, Lecce 2 Torino 1, Piacenza 1 Cagliari 1, Reggina 1 Verona 1, AS Roma 1 AC Milan 1, Udinese 2 Perugia 1, Venezia 0 Bari 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Juventus	**33**	**21**	**8**	**4**	**46**	**19**	**71**
2. Lazio	33	20	9	4	61	33	69
3. AC Milan	33	15	13	5	61	40	58
4. Inter Milan	33	16	7	10	56	36	55
5. Parma	33	15	10	8	48	36	55
6. AS Roma	33	14	11	8	55	32	53
7. Udinese	33	13	11	9	55	41	50
8. Fiorentina	33	12	12	9	45	38	48
9. Verona	33	10	12	11	38	43	42
10. Reggina	33	9	13	11	31	39	40
11. Lecce	33	10	10	13	32	45	40
12. Bologna	33	9	12	12	31	38	39
13. Perugia	33	11	6	16	35	52	39
14. Bari	33	10	8	15	33	47	38
15. Torino	33	7	12	14	33	46	33
16. Venezia	33	6	8	19	30	57	26
17. Cagliari	33	3	13	17	29	52	22
18. Piacenza	33	4	9	20	18	43	21

LEADING SCORERS

23 - Andriy Shevchenko (AC Milan)
21 - Hernan Crespo (Parma)
20 - Gabriel Batistuta (Fiorentina)
17 - Vincenzo Montella (AS Roma)
16 - Marco Ferrante (Torino)
15 - Filippo Inzaghi (Juventus)
14 - Giuseppe Signori (Bologna), Cristiano Lucarelli (Lecce)
13 - Christian Vieri (Inter Milan)
12 - Marcelo Salas (Lazio), Roberto Muzzi (Udinese)
11 - Oliver Bierhoff (Milan), Nicola Amoruso (Perugia), Mohamed Kallon (Reggina), Marco Delvecchio (Roma)
10 - Alvaro Recoba (Inter)
9 - Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus), Stefano Fiore (Udinese), Filippo Maniero (Venezia)
8 - Patrick Mboma (Cagliari), Francesco Totti (Roma), Maurizio Ganz (Venezia), Fabrizio Cammarata (Verona)
7 - Juan Veron (Lazio), David Sesa (Lecce), Martin Joergensen (Udinese)
6 - Yksel Osmanovski (Bari), Kennet Andersson (Bologna), Daniele Berretta (Cagliari), Enrico Chiesa (Fiorentina), Ivan Zamorano (Inter), Darko Kovacevic (Juventus), Simone Inzaghi, Sinisa Mihajlovic (Lazio), Zvonimir Boban (Milan),

Renato Olive (Perugia), Andrea Pirlo (Reggina), Roberto Carlos Sosa (Udinese), Adailton, Domenico Morfeo (Verona)

SPANISH PRIMERA LIGA

Athletic Bilbao 2 Racing Santander 2, Deportivo Coruna 2 Real Zaragoza 2, Malaga 0 Celta Vigo 1, Real Oviedo 2 Atletico Madrid 2, Sevilla 0 Real Mallorca 4, Valladolid 0 Real Betis 3, Barcelona 0 Rayo Vallecano 2, Numancia 2 Espanyol 0, Real Madrid 0 Alaves 1, Valencia 4 Real Sociedad 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Deportivo Coruna	**36**	**20**	**5**	**11**	**64**	**44**	**65**
2. Barcelona	36	19	5	12	68	44	62
3. Real Zaragoza	36	15	15	6	56	36	60
4. Valencia	36	17	9	10	57	38	60
5. Alaves	36	17	9	10	38	33	60
6. Real Madrid	36	15	14	7	56	47	59
7. Real Mallorca	36	14	9	13	50	41	51
8. Celta Vigo	36	15	6	15	43	41	51
9. Rayo Vallecano	36	14	7	15	47	49	49
10. Malaga	36	11	14	11	53	47	47
11. Valladolid	36	12	11	13	33	43	47
12. Espanyol	36	12	10	14	51	46	46
13. Athletic Bilbao	36	11	13	12	45	56	46
14. Racing Santander	36	10	14	12	52	50	44
15. Numancia	36	11	11	14	44	55	44
16. Real Sociedad	36	10	13	13	41	49	43
17. Real Oviedo	36	10	12	14	42	58	42
18. Real Betis	36	10	9	17	31	53	39
19. Atletico Madrid	36	8	10	18	45	62	34
20. Sevilla	36	5	12	19	39	63	27

Note: teams on the same points are ranked according to the head-to-head results and then on goal difference.

LEADING SCORERS
27 - Salva Ballesta (Racing Santander)
24 - Catanha (Malaga), Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Atletico Madrid)
21 - Roy Makaay (Deportivo Coruna)
19 - Savo Milosevic (Real Zaragoza)
18 - Diego Tristan (Real Mallorca)
17 - Raul Gonzalez (Real Madrid)
13 - Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona), Gaizka Mendieta (Valencia)
12 - Rivaldo (Barcelona), Fernando Morientes (Real Madrid), Juan Carlos Gomez (Sevilla), Victor Fernandez (Valladolid)
11 - Dely Valdes (Oviedo), Dani Garcia (Barcelona), Joseba Etxeberria (Athletic Bilbao)
10 - Alfonso Perez (Real Betis), Raul Tamudo (Espanyol), Claudio Lopez (Valencia), Djalminha (Deportivo Coruna)
9 - Vassilis Tsartas (Sevilla), Luis Figo (Barcelona), Manuel Canabal (Rayo Vallecano), Oscar de Paula (Real Sociedad), Yordi Gonzalez (Real Zaragoza), Bolo Perez (Rayo Vallecano), Juanele Castano (Real Zaragoza)
8 - Ruben Navarro (Numancia), Pauleta Resendes (Deportivo Coruna), Rodrigo Fabri (Valladolid), Turu Flores (Deportivo Coruna), Benni McCarthy (Celta Vigo)

GERMAN CUP FINAL

Bayern Munich 3 (Elber 57, Paulo Sergio 83, Mehmet Scholl 90) **Werder Bremen 0**.

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

CHAMPION-PSV EINDHOVEN

Heerenveen 1 Den Bosch 1, RKC Waalwijk 2 Utrecht 0, Sparta Rotterdam 0 PSV Eindhoven 2, AZ Alkmaar 0 Vitesse Arnhem 1, Twente Enschede 4 Graafschap Doetinchem 0, Ajax Amsterdam 1 MVV Maastricht 0, NEC Nijmegen 0 Feyenoord 2, Willem II Tilburg 1 Cambuur Leeuwarden 4, Fortuna Sittard 1 Roda JC Kerkrade 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. PSV Eindhoven	**33**	**26**	**3**	**4**	**103**	**24**	**81**
2. Heerenveen	33	21	4	8	64	35	67
3. Feyenoord	33	18	9	6	65	41	63
4. Vitesse Arnhem	33	18	8	7	65	41	62
5. Ajax Amsterdam	33	18	7	8	71	48	61
6. Twente Enschede	33	16	11	6	56	36	59
7. AZ Alkmaar	33	17	4	12	67	56	55
8. Roda JC Kerkrade	33	15	7	11	59	51	52
9. Willem II Tilburg	33	13	8	12	54	64	47
10. Utrecht	33	13	4	16	52	60	43
11. RKC Waalwijk	33	12	6	15	43	65	42
12. Fortuna Sittard	33	10	7	16	45	52	37
13. Sparta Rotterdam	33	11	4	18	48	68	37
14. Graafschap	33	8	8	17	40	59	32
15. NEC Nijmegen	33	7	6	20	35	60	27
16. MVV Maastricht	33	6	6	21	37	67	24
17. Cambuur Leeu.	33	5	7	21	33	65	22
18. Den Bosch	33	3	11	19	29	74	20

LEADING SCORERS
29 - Ruud van Nistelrooy (PSV Eindhoven)
25 - Pierre van Hooijdonk (Vitesse Arnhem)
19 - Arnold Bruggink (PSV) Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (Twente Enschede)
18 - Anthony Lurling (Heerenveen) Luc Nilis (PSV)
17 - John Bosman (AZ Alkmaar)
15 - Bob Peeters (Roda JC Kerkrade) Julio Cruz (Feyenoord)
14 - Nikos Machlas (Ajax Amsterdam) Richard

BELGIAN FIRST DIVISION

CHAMPIONS-ANDERLECHT

Knopper (Ajax) Mechelen 0 Ghent 2, Harelbeke 1 Genk 2, Anderlecht 2 Standard Liege 0, Eendracht Aalst 0 Charleroi 3, Germinal Beerschot 0 Excelsior Mouscron 1, Lokeren 5 Beveren 2, Sint-Truiden 2 Lierse 1, Club Bruges 3 Lommel 1, Westerlo 4 Verbroedering Geel 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Anderlecht	**33**	**22**	**8**	**3**	**85**	**35**	**74**
2. Club Bruges	33	20	4	9	68	32	64
3. Ghent	33	20	3	10	76	51	63
4. Standard Liege	33	18	2	13	65	49	56
5. Excelsior Mouscron	33	16	8	9	66	44	56
6. Westerlo	33	15	8	10	70	64	53
7. Lierse	33	15	7	11	64	45	52
8. Germinal Beerschot	33	15	7	11	52	44	52
9. Genk	33	15	6	12	60	58	51
10. Lokeren	33	11	11	11	54	57	44
11. Mechelen	33	12	5	16	46	74	41
12. Sint-Truiden	33	10	7	16	40	61	37
13. Eendracht Aalst	33	11	3	19	52	71	36
14. Beveren	33	9	8	16	50	65	35
15. Harelbeke	33	9	5	19	53	71	32
16. Charleroi	33	7	9	17	41	61	30
17. Verbroedering Geel	33	5	13	15	32	58	28
18. Lommel	33	4	12	17	31	65	24

NOTE: Belgian FA changed result of Harelbeke v Beveren match on January 23, wich Harelbeke had won 6-3, to a 5-0 win for Beveren as Harelbeke fielded an ineligible player.

LEADING SCORERS
30 - Ole-Martin Aarst (Ghent)
29 - Toni Brogno (Westerlo)
20 - Jan Koller (Anderlecht)
17 - David Paas (Harelbeke)
15 - Eric Van Meir (Lierse) Marcin Zewlakow (Excelsior Mouscron)

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION

CHAMPION-MONACO

Olympique Lyon 2 Bastia 1, Olympique Marseille 2 Nancy 2, Girondins Bordeaux 1 Racing Lens 2, Racing Strasbourg 0 St-Etienne 1 AJ Auxerre 4 Stade Rennes 0, Metz 3 Troyes 1, Monaco 5 Le Havre 2, Nantes 1 Sedan 0, Paris St Germain 3 Montpellier 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Monaco	**33**	**20**	**5**	**8**	**68**	**35**	**65**
2. Paris St Germain	33	16	9	8	52	38	57
3. Olympique Lyon	33	16	7	10	43	40	55
4. Girondins Bordeaux	33	15	8	10	51	39	53
5. AJ Auxerre	33	13	8	12	37	37	47
6. Sedan	33	13	8	12	41	42	47
7. Racing Lens	33	13	7	13	39	41	46
8. Racing Strasbourg	33	13	7	13	42	49	46
9. St-Etienne	33	12	9	12	43	46	45
10. Metz	33	9	17	7	38	31	44
11. Bastia	33	11	11	11	42	38	44
12. Troyes	33	13	3	17	34	50	42
13. Olympique	33	9	14	10	43	43	41
14. Nantes	33	11	7	15	38	40	40
15. Stade Rennes	33	11	7	15	42	48	40
16. Nancy	33	10	9	14	41	45	39
17. Le Havre	33	9	7	17	30	51	34
18. Montpellier	33	7	9	17	37	48	30

LEADING SCORES
22 - Sonny Anderson (Olympique Lyon), David Trezeguet (Monaco)
20 - Marco Simone (Monaco)
15 - Christian (Paris St Germain), Shabani Nonda (Stade Rennes), Alex (St Etienne)
14 - Lilian Laslandes (Girondins Bordeaux), Stephane Guivarc'h (AJ Auxerre)
13 - Antoine Sibierski (Nantes), Tony Cascarino (Nantes)
12 - Sylvain Wiltord (Girondins Bordeaux)
11 - Frederic Nee (Bastia)

FRENCH CUP

Nantes 2 (Antoine Sibierski 50, 90pen) Calais 1 (Jerome Dutitre 34)

PORTUGUESE FIRST DIVISION

Alverca 1 Boavista 0, Braga 0 Gil Vicente 0, Campomaiorense 1 Farense 0, Maritimo 5 Rio Ave 2, Porto 2 Estrela Amadora 1, Uniao Leiria 3 Santa Clara 2, Belenenses 0 Vitoria Setubal 1, Sporting Lisbon 0 Benfica 1, Vitoria Guimaraes 2 Salgueiros 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Sporting Lisbon	**33**	**22**	**8**	**3**	**53**	**22**	**74**
2. Porto	33	22	7	4	62	24	73
3. Benfica	33	20	6	7	56	32	66
4. Boavista	33	16	6	11	38	29	54
5. Gil Vicente	33	13	11	9	46	33	50
6. Maritimo	33	13	11	9	41	34	50
7. Vitoria Guimaraes	33	14	6	13	46	40	48
8. Estrela Amadora	33	9	15	9	37	35	42
9. Braga	33	12	6	15	42	43	42
11. Uniao Leiria	33	10	11	12	31	35	41
12. Alverca	33	11	8	14	39	46	41
10. Belenenses	33	9	13	11	35	36	40
14. Campomaiorense	33	10	6	17	31	48	36
13. Salgueiros	33	9	7	17	30	45	34
15. Farense	33	7	10	16	33	59	32
16. Vitoria Setubal	33	9	5	19	25	49	32
17. Rio Ave	33	7	9	17	32	54	30
18. Santa Clara	33	6	10	17	32	48	28

LEADING SCORERS
37 - Mario Jardel (Porto)
22 - Alberto Acosta (Sporting Lisbon)
19 - Gaucho Gomes (Estrela Amadora)
18 - Nuno Gomes (Benfica)
15 - Brandao Dalsoto (Vitoria Guimaraes)
13 - Toedtli Ramon (Maritimo)

ROMANIAN FIRST DIVISION

CHAMPION - DINAMO BUCHAREST

Steaua Bucharest 2 Gloria Bistrita 1, Dinamo Bucharest 7 Onesti 1, Arges Pitesti 3 Otelul Galati 0, Universitatea Craiova 1 Brasov 0, Farul Constanta 2 National Bucharest 0, FCM Bacau 3 Petrolul Ploiesti 0, Astra Ploiesti 3 Rocar Bucharest 1, Ceahlaul Piatra Neamt 3 Extensiv Craiova 1, CSM Resita 0 Rapid Bucharest 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Dinamo Bucharest	**33**	**27**	**3**	**3**	**90**	**35**	**84**
2. Rapid Bucharest	33	21	6	6	62	37	69
3. Ceahlaul Piatra	33	17	6	10	56	47	57
4. Arges Pitesti	33	16	6	11	45	33	54
5. Steaua Bucharest	33	17	3	13	59	56	54
6. FCM Bacau	33	15	6	12	40	36	51
7. Gloria Bistrita	33	16	2	15	50	49	50
8. Astra Ploiesti	33	13	8	12	43	39	47
9. National Bucharest	33	14	4	15	56	42	46
10. Universitatea	33	13	7	13	44	38	46
11. Otelul Galati	33	14	4	15	54	52	46
12. Rocar Bucharest	33	14	2	17	49	52	44
13. Farul Constanta	33	12	8	13	37	43	44
14. Petrolul Ploiesti	33	13	5	15	47	56	44
15. Brasov	33	13	4	16	51	43	43
16. Onesti	33	8	3	22	35	91	27
17. CSM Resita	33	5	8	20	34	68	23
18. Extensiv Craiova	33	4	5	24	26	63	17

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

Kalamata 2 Ionikos 0, Trikala 3 Kavala 1, OFI 3 Paniliakos 2 Skoda Xanthi 3 Iraklis 0, Ethnikos Asteras 2 Panahaiki 2, PAOK v Panionios, Aris v Olympiakos, Panathinaikos v Proodeftiki, AEK v Apollon.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Olympiakos	**30**	**26**	**2**	**2**	**77**	**17**	**80**
2 Panathinaikos	30	24	4	2	76	22	76
3 OFI Crete	31	17	9	5	57	38	60
4 AEK	30	16	6	8	56	37	54
5 Aris	30	13	7	10	43	37	46
6 Panionios	30	14	2	14	46	51	44
7 PAOK	30	11	10	9	48	38	43
8 Iraklis	31	13	4	14	50	55	43
9 Xanthi	31	11	8	12	35	38	41
10 Kalamata	31	10	8	13	33	49	38
11 Ionikos	31	9	10	12	36	50	37
12 Panachaiki	31	8	12	11	33	40	36
13 Ethnikos Asteras	31	10	5	16	28	47	35
14 Paniliakos	31	10	4	17	38	46	34
15 Kavala	31	8	6	17	32	55	30
16 Proodeftiki	30	6	7	17	25	44	25
17 Apollon	30	6	6	18	27	46	24
18 Trikala	31	5	6	20	31	65	21

YUGOSLAV FIRST DIVISION

Spartak Subotica 0 Sutjeska Niksic 2, Radnicki Kragujevac 1 Partizan Belgrade 1, OFK Beograd Belgrade 3 Cukaricki Belgrade 1, Rad Belgrade 2 Hajduk Belgrade 1, Zemun Belgrade 2 Vojvodina Novi Sad 1, Zeleznik Belgrade 2 Hajduk Kula 0, Red Star Belgrade 2 Obilic Belgrade 0, Borac Cacak 0 Mogren Budva 1, Milicionar Belgrade 1 Sartid Smederevo 1, Buducnost Podgorica 2 Proleter Zrenjanin 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Red Star Belgrade	**37**	**30**	**6**	**1**	**79**	**18**	**96**
2. Partizan Belgrade	37	29	5	3	101	28	92
3. Obilic Belgrade	37	26	5	6	65	29	83
4. Rad Belgrade	37	16	9	12	54	42	57
5. Sutjeska Niksic	38	16	9	13	47	46	57
6. Radnicki Nis	37	16	4	17	48	43	52
7. Buducnos	37	15	7	15	44	38	52
8. Zeleznik Belgrade	37	14	9	14	49	42	51
9. OFK Beograd	37	13	10	14	53	57	49
10. Milicionar	38	13	9	16	46	50	48
11. Radnicki Krag.c	37	12	12	13	31	37	48
12. Zemun Belgrade	37	13	9	15	42	52	48
13. Vojvodina Novi	37	13	8	16	49	49	47
14. Cukaricki Belgrade	37	12	11	14	35	41	47
15. Sartid Smederevo	37	12	8	17	37	43	44
16. Mogren Budva	37	13	5	19	39	62	44
17. Hajduk Kula	37	12	7	18	32	44	43
18. Proleter Zrenjanin	37	11	9	17	32	45	42
19. Hajduk Belgrade	37	13	3	21	51	68	42
20. Spartak Subotica	37	8	5	24	28	71	29
21. Borac Cacak	38	6	4	28	36	94	22

CROATIAN FIRST DIVISION

CHAMPION-DINAMO ZAGREB

Dinamo Zagreb 2 NK Rijeka 0, Hrv. Dragovoljac 2 Cibalia Vinkovci 1, Slaven Belupo 2 NK Zagreb 0, Hajduk Split 1 Osijek 0, Vukovar 91 2 Sibenik 1, Varteks Varazdin 1 Istra Pula 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Dinamo Zagreb	**31**	**21**	**6**	**4**	**76**	**23**	**69**
2. Hajduk Split	31	17	9	5	57	27	60
3. Osijek	31	15	8	8	52	40	53
4. Slaven Belupo	31	11	13	7	28	29	46
5. NK Rijeka	31	12	7	12	50	38	43
6. Cibalia Vinkovci	31	9	12	10	36	37	39
7. Varteks Varazdin	31	10	8	13	31	43	38
8. NK Zagreb	31	9	10	12	40	47	37
9. Hrv. Dragovoljac	31	8	8	15	35	56	32
10. Sibenik	31	7	9	15	29	49	30
11. Istra Pula	31	8	6	17	33	57	30
12. Vukovar 91	31	7	8	16	29	50	29

NOTE - The Croatian FA reversed an earlier decision under which Hajduk Split were docked one point for fielding a suspended player against Hrvatski Dragovoljac in March.

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